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THURSDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2014

Barry Scouts & Guides Fete See Page 16

COWBRIDGE Summer Update Pages 20-21

PARK CRESCENT, BARRY... Pages 24-25

Charity Bake-Off Page 28

Pupils from Llanfair Primary School had extra lessons at a nearby solar farm recently. (See story on page 3).

CRASH ON A48

TWO vehicles were involved in a head-on collision around 10am yesterday (Wednesday) on the A48 just outside Cowbridge.

A police spokeswoman said: "One male has been taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg. South Wales Police are appealing for anyone with any information to call on 101, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting 1400225353".

Vale villages form an action group in fight to stay small!

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

RESIDENTS from small rural Vale villages are banding together to fight planning applications to build housing on greenfield sites.

Describing the number of applications in the pipeline as "unprecedented and disproportionate", the new group, entitled '*Vale Villages Together*', includes residents from Colwinston, Ystradowen, St Nicholas and Bonvilston.

They have been formed after digesting the implications of proposals in the Local Development Plan to abolish settlement boundaries around small rural villages.

Larger communities, such as Cowbridge, Wenvoe, Llantwit Major and Dinas Powys, will still have settlement boundaries, and so will enjoy a degree of protection.

A group spokesman, Paul Jeremy, said: "In our view, the council is already using LDP allocated site planning consents to maximise housing development in the rural areas of the Vale".

He also told The GEM that the group agreed with many other protestors in the Vale that the Welsh Government was insisting on too high a housing projection figure, and that the Vale Council should be arguing against this, and not trying so hard to comply with it.

However, the group think that the critical factor shaping the quality of life in the rural Vale is the future of settlement boundaries around rural villages, as the council is proposing to abolish them.

Mr Jeremy said: "This will leave any Vale village open to significant 'windfall' developments, whether or not it has already received a housing allocation in the current LDP proposals. No village is immune from such 'windfall' pressure.

"We are currently seeing such a windfall application in Ystradowen to build 25 houses – in addition to the 85 houses proposed by the Vale Council in the LDP.

"If this is approved, then every Vale village faces similar applications from developers and landowners," he warned.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. ***Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number***. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Are we seeing destruction of the rural Vale?

FOLLOWING the reduction of the speed limit on the road out of Rhoose from 60 to 40 mph, we now find the widening of the path from Rhoose to the airport appears to have made the road so dangerous that it has been downgraded from national speed limit (60) to 30 mph.

This path only goes as far as the airport, a huge amount of effort and tax payers' money has been spent narrowing the road to enable the good people of Rhoose to cycle there.

No-one will enjoy the views as they traverse this area, because the council has also found a need to chop down trees and hedgerow (in the middle of the nesting season) and erect a seven-foot wooden fence.

To my knowledge, neither of these roads has posed any extraordinary risk to road users before, so why the changes?

How can the reduction of the width of the road be justified, just when planners are considering the building of 1,200 more homes in the Rhoose area, with the inevitable increase in road traffic that this will bring?

We are witnessing the destruction of the rural Vale – and there doesn't seem to be anything we can do about it.

Rose Fisher, Rhoose.

Public need a voice on 'Centenary Field'

THE Vale and Barry Town councils are to be commended for designating the Cemetery Approach area as a Centenary Field, run by Fields In Trust and the Royal British Legion and seeking additional funding from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme.

Local people need no reminder that this precious urban open space was saved by the determination of the 11,300 townspeople who signed a protest petition to prevent the area being developed as a housing estate. Against all the odds, the battle was won when the developers pulled out.

Because the citizens of Barry played a decisive role in ensuring that victory, they should be closely involved in the development of the Centenary Field.

Many ideas were put forward for the area during the Save Cemetery Approach Action Group campaign to prevent housing development.

Some of those suggestions should now be considered afresh and, where practicable, implemented.

Derek Hooper,
Save Cemetery Approach Action Group.

France is on the right track

I HAVE just returned from a delightful motorcycling holiday in Brittany. The food was a very pleasant experience and the standard of roads second to none. I could concentrate on riding and not trying to avoid potholes, manhole covers, and the many roadworks that blight our network.

When bringing up this subject with our expat hosts, they explained the role of the local mayor regarding road repairs.

My question is, how come I pay nearly £1,000 annually in road tax to keep my vehicles legally on the road and feel that I don't get real value for money, France being many times larger than the UK.

(Name and address supplied)

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Arable land: 'Once it's gone, it's gone!'

AS an agriculturalist with over 40 years' experience of helping farmers to grow crops for human and animal consumption, I am concerned about the effect new housing developments will have on food production and the environment.

Wales has a limited quantity of good agricultural land (grades 1 – 3). The majority of soil in the Vale is the Ston Easton Series, a well drained fine-silt-clay-loam soil on limestone.

When other growth factors like altitude, topography and rainfall are taken into account these soils have the highest potential for food production in all of Wales. This area of soil represents less than 1 per cent of all Welsh soils.

Recently released statistics show that in 2013, the UK was only 73 per cent self-sufficient in indigenously grown food, compared to 84 per cent in 1984, and we were only 60 per cent self-sufficient in all consumed food against 78 per cent in 1984.

Many of the proposed housing developments in the Vale are on green field sites, that would result in the loss of these sites forever. There are many other demands on good agricultural land such as energy sources like solar, wind turbines, Bi-ethanol and Bio-gas.

Some of these can be converted back to agricultural use, but building houses and roads will mean the end of food production forever.

We need a National Strategic Plan for food production in Wales. There is enough space for houses on non-productive land, brownfield sites and in-fill in existing communities.

Planning permission should not be granted on fields that have soil classification 1 – 3 in the Vale.

Richard Gibb, Colwinston.

INVITATION TO REDROW

THE assertion by Redrow in connection with their proposed development of 62 houses in Colwinston that the increase in car movements in and out of the village would be 'minimal', fails to take account of the situation today.

There is no scheduled bus service and access to the nearest public transport is over a kilometre away on the A48. As a consequence, almost all existing families have two cars and, indeed, Redrow have planned parking for at least two cars for each new house.

Even without any further development, it is already a nightmare for the dog-walker venturing out onto the narrow country lanes in and around Colwinston at most times of the day.

There are no pavements for pedestrians, the lanes are less than two metres wide in places, with numerous blind bends, and there are no traffic-calming measures.

If Redrow's proposed development in Colwinston were to go ahead, this would add at least an additional 62 car movements out of the village in the morning rush hour and back again in the evening; and probably an extra 200 car movements in and out of the village during each working day.

To make matters worse, the proposed site is directly adjacent to the village school; factor in the construction traffic plus delivery vans and you create an unacceptable accident risk to children, pedestrians and drivers alike.

At a time when we are being encouraged to become more active, walking will become impossible in this village.

For a first-hand experience, I extend an invitation to the directors of Redrow to join me walking Archie (a Labrador) and Freddie (a Cocker Spaniel) around Colwinston during the school run in term-time – but be warned, it is not for the faint-hearted.

David Fernie, Colwinston.

Approval does not augur well...

I HAVE to agree with T Richards regarding the new building at Gladstone Bridge (*'Tasteless blot on landscape', GEM letters, June 19),* though the belief that the money could have been better spent elsewhere is surely erroneous.

The variety of external wall finishes on this building will look shabby in a few years' time. The timber panelling will turn grey and probably warp, (look at the Assembly in Cardiff) – perhaps starting to match the adjacent grey panels.

The dark bricks will inevitably become stained with unsightly white salts – already the builder has spent considerable time removing the efflorescence from the red bricks.

The coloured panels will fade and become the target for seagulls. The different window types, shapes and sizes do not gel. The architect clearly thought 'more is better – let's throw every idea at it!'

Planning approval for this building does not augur well for redevelopment on Barry Island. Let us hope that we do not get buildings that rival the green scaly edifice on Porthcawl's seafront!

M Duxbury, Barry.

Traffic nightmare

RETURNING to south Wales from the Forest of Dean on Thursday, June 19, proved a nightmare – thanks to a spider's web of delays on the road network.

Keen to avoid the traditional late afternoon bottleneck at Celtic Manor, I decided to take the scenic road off the Monmouth to Newport route and go from Abergavenny to Merthyr.

At the first roundabout on the way to Abergavenny, there were delays for a census and police checks, with cars being pulled over.

From Abergavenny to Merthyr, there were long periods of nose-to-tail traffic.

As I went down the A470, there was an electronic notice stating that junction 33 off the M4 was closed – I was heading for Barry.

I took the road into Cardiff. Nose-to-tail all the way down Manor Way and along Western Avenue. Culverhouse Cross – more delays!

When will the Welsh Government get to grips with the traffic nightmare in south Wales?

(Name and address supplied)

Let's take a ramble!

WITH the better weather at last seemingly upon us, it's time to enjoy the great outdoors so why not come along on one of our organised walks?

If you are just looking for something short, we offer walks of around four miles on most Thursday evenings, or if you're looking for something more adventurous we have walks of various lengths and grades at the weekend.

We meet locally to car share for walks further away. You can see our walks programme at www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or call me on 02920 514051.

Robin Pitcher, ***Chairman, Penarth and District Ramblers.***

'Drip-drip attacks on Welsh NHS'

I AGREE with the letter from G Smith concerning our Tory MP again attacking ambulance response times (The GEM, June 19).

The drip-drip attacks on our Welsh NHS we see so regularly are part of a design to condition the public against our NHS -– so there would be less resistance to selling it off.

Our Welsh NHS is not without faults, but privatisation would be an infinitely worse step than learning from mistakes and improving it within national ownership.

Also, the pretence from the Tories that the English NHS is functioning better than the Welsh NHS needs to be exposed.

The reforms in England are only just beginning to take effect, and already there is a visible deterioration in their NHS services.

It has been reported in the national media that a leaked document at a meeting on June 8, shows a Conservative minister admitting people were no longer aware who was responsible for the English NHS after its top-down reform.

This minister added that the Uk Government pretty much gave away control of the English NHS, to the extent that the Government there now really has no day-to-day control.

The word 'reform' itself is, of course, a euphemism for privatisation, – where profits take precedence over care.

I hardly need to mention the recent serious scandals in English hospitals, which have been widely reported in all the national news media.

The English NHS shake-up was a three billion pound fiasco that nobody wanted, and nobody voted for.

All it has succeeded in doing is increasing bureaucracy and driving operating costs up. Now the ministers in England are simply washing their hands of responsibility for the NHS.

We should guard against succumbing to this ploy to soften public opinion for handing our NHS over to private profit.

If they succeed, we will no longer have a functioning NHS in Wales.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

'The NHS is our national treasure'

THREE weeks ago, I underwent major surgery in a hospital near Birmingham.

Since returning to Cowbridge, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness, care and concern given to me by the doctors, nurses and staff at the Cowbridge and Western Vale practice, by the staff at Sylvia Williams Chemist, and by the district nurses, day and night, who have visited me daily.

Nothing has been too much trouble.

At times of great difficulty, we tend to concentrate on the bad things, forgetting the good work the NHS has done over nearly 70 years, free at the point of use, and open to all – regardless of status.

Long may it continue – for it is, indeed, a national treasure.

Neil Workman, Cowbridge.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
19 Thur	11.56	8.9		
20 Fri	00.29	9.1	12.51	8.6
21 Sat	01.33	8.5	14.04	8.3
22 Sun	02.41	8,5	15.15	8.3
23 Mon	03.51	8.3	16.23	8.5
24 Tues	04.52	8.6	17.17	8.8
25 Wed	05.44	8.9	18.11	9.1
26 Thur	06.33	9.0	18.55	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk • gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk*** **• Tel 01446 774484**
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Vale villages come together

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The group want to force this issue and, in particular, say they want the leaders of the Labour and Conservative groups on the Vale Council to make their position clear.

Mr Jeremy said: "We have written to Labour's Coun Neil Moore and Coun John Thomas, the Conservative leader, asking them to support the retention of settlement boundaries for the villages as one of the 'Focused Changes' to the Deposit Plan.

"Although this rural Vale initiative has started with a small number of villages, it is hoped to expand it as individuals, local community councils and other interests in other Vale villages join this new network if they share our concerns".

Vale Villages Together can be reached at valevillagestogether@gmail.com

Local pupils visit a working solar farm

PUPILS from Llanfair Primary School recently visited a nearby solar farm for an 'outdoor learning session'.

The site visit was organised by Primrose Solar, owner and operator of the Garn Solar Park, which became operational in March 2014 and now generates enough electricity to power around 2,200 average homes.

The company has an educational consultant, Lorna Lopes, and she organised a full day of educational activities.

Diane Normansell, the headteacher at Llanfair Primary, said: "Due to the nature of our small, rural setting we are not usually able to access links with industry; this has been an amazing opportunity.

"We have also benefited through the funding towards our outdoor classroom. We are extremely pleased to hear that our partnership with Primrose Solar Holdings will continue."

Andrew RT Davies AM, leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the National Assembly, who is the landowner of the site, said: "As a former Llanfair pupil myself, I am very pleased that the solar park is supporting the local school community.

"You are never too young to start learning about the importance of saving energy and the advantages of renewables; and seeing solar generation in action is a great way to get the message across."

Lorna Lopes said: "During the visit the children heard from the developer, the site manager and electricians on the site.

"Meeting the people behind the development helps to widen children's horizons so they understand how a flourishing industry can make a positive difference."

She stated that the solar park offers further benefits, as the land will continue to be used for agriculture, with sheep grazing under and around the panels, and a programme to enhance biodiversity, encouraging wildflowers to grow and with areas set aside for ground nesting birds.

Giles Clark, CEO of Primrose Solar, said: "Supporting the communities who live near our solar developments is very important to Primrose Solar, and Garn Solar Park can help bring science to life and make it relevant to the children".

Remember when we had to **Dial O for an Operator**?

THE Llanblethian WI this month welcomed Mrs Pamela Robson, whose claim to fame is that she was a 'Dial 'O' for an Operator' with the GPO.

It sounds like a James Bond film, and in real terms the revolution that has taken place in the telephone world over the last 50 years is just as phenomenal.

Pamela started work for the G.P.O. in 1960 as a telephone operator, at this time, telephones were not automated and we had to rely on the operator. Qualifications for the job included a clear speaking voice.

No-one was allowed to speak their own words – they were given a set of phrases to cover all situations from 'number please', to 'sorry your time is up'. We all remember the dreaded three minute pips to end your call, and also the days when we shared party lines.

The first telephone exchange opened in 1876. It was Government-owned and controlled, which it still is.

The first telephone kiosk was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, who also designed Battersea Power Station and Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

The first subscriber call was made by the Queen to the Lord Provost in Edinburgh in 1958. The Queen made the call from the telephone exchange in Bristol, some 300 miles from Edinburgh.

1935 hailed the start of 999 emergency calls, the reason being there was a fire in London where five women died because the lines were overloaded and the operators were unable to get a line out to the fire service;1934 was the year when the speaking clock was introduced.

The GPO invited contestants to apply for the voice to record the time. It was, in fact, won by a Welsh person!

Kathleen Ferrier, who was one of the world's greatest contraltos, started her working life as a GPO telephone operator at Blackburn telephone exchange.

Pamela Robson was Miss GPO in 1962, for which she received £100 prize money and two weeks' holiday in the South of France.

Over the last 50 years the telephone has been reinvented – no more is it just a telephone.

It is a camera, a telex machine, a constant communicator and an extension to our right hand and ear. **VG**

Builder has title in site!

STEVE NORTHAM of Taylor Wimpey south Wales, is a first-round winner in the annual NHBC Pride in the Job Awards, which honours site managers who have created new homes of outstanding quality.

He won the award for his work on the Scholars View site in Town Mill Road, Cowbridge, joining nearly 450 Quality Award winners from across the UK. They were selected from around 15,000 entrants from across the country.

The winners are now shortlisted for regional titles which will be revealed in the autumn. The regional champions will then go forward to contest the national Supreme Winner title in their category at the Pride in the Job Gala Final in London next January.

First World War memory board

SOME of the residents at St Mary Church, Cowbridge are putting together a First World War memory board.

We wondered if other residents in the area have any memorabilia, letters or photographs, or local information, about the war?

We would especially like details about our own village and the community around us.

Once all the information is collected, the memory board and display will be featured in St Mary Church.

If we could copy your information we would e extremely grateful.

Geoff Simpson,
Llanfair Community Council.
email: Geoffreysimpson278@btinternet.com
01446 773830.

Barn dance for school funds

A TWMPATH (barn dance) is being held at Court Farm, Penllyn, at 7.30pm on Saturday, July 12, to raise funds for Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

A bar and snacks will be available, and there is parking in a nearby field. Tickets (£8 adults, £5 under 18s) are available from The GEM office, or from Johana on 07940 324617.

Last call for Legion bingo!

THIS is the last call for Royal British Legion bingo in Cowbridge – for after our July meeting, we break for the August hols!

Last month's session was its usual howling success (and I do mean howling!)

The first prize in the raffle, a meal for two, kindly donated by 'Fletch' of the Vale of Glamorgan Inn, was won by Joanne Cook, who was so overcome that she gave BW a soothing kiss on his brow.

Our last meeting of the spring programme is on Thursday, July 3 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Don't miss the last chance of making some holiday money! Don't forget the dabber and the wine..

Have a great holiday and come back thoroughly rejuvenated for the the autumn series on the first Thursday in September. Put it in your diary NOW!

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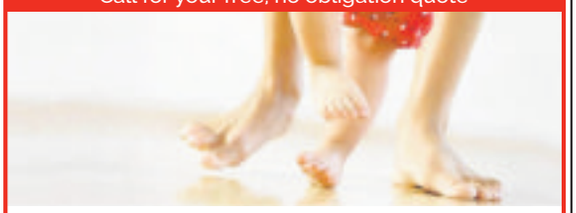

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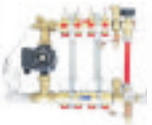

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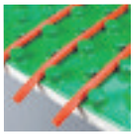

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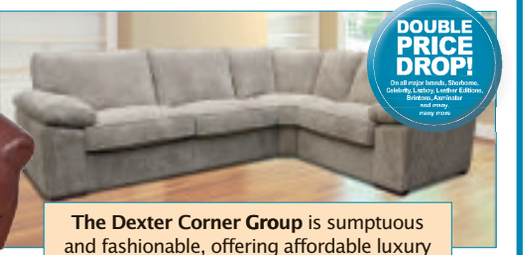

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Six new properties will 'help meet the demand for affordable homes...'

NEW residents will soon be moving into the six new affordable properties in Town Mill Road, Cowbridge.

Wales and West Housing (WWH) was selected to provide the homes, which were built by Taylor Wimpey. With the involvement of the Vale Council, the properties have been allocated to residents with connections to the area.

The new homes are a mixture of two, three and four-bedroom houses, each with private gardens and off road parking.

Five of the properties are for affordable rent, while one has been sold as part of WWH's low cost home ownership scheme.

Local councillors and new residents attended a special viewing of the properties on Tuesday, June 10, as building work nears completion.

Coun Geoffrey Cox, who represents the Cowbridge ward, viewed the houses and said: "These new homes help to fulfil the demand for affordable housing in Cowbridge. This is great for local people, we're delighted."

New resident Ms Jayne Lynn was also thrilled, commenting: "The house is fantastic and of such good quality. It's also in a perfect location for us as it is close to our school."

Ms Symone Davies and her son, Ethan, and daughter, Ffion, will also be moving to Town Mill Road. After taking a look around her new property, Ms Davies said: "The house is not what I expected – it's far, far better. We're all really looking forward to moving in now."

WWH development manager, Jon Harvey, said: "WWH is pleased to have worked with Taylor Wimpey at their Town Mill Road development. We, and our new residents, are incredibly pleased with the high quality build of the properties."

Anne Hinchey, chief executive of WWH, said: "The shortage of affordable housing in rural areas is at a high, with many people being priced out of the property market in areas such as Cowbridge.

"By working with the Vale Council and Taylor Wimpey to deliver these six new homes, we hope to help local people to stay in the area near their families, friends and local services. We wish our residents all the best in their new homes."

Coun Bronwen Brooks, cabinet member for housing, building maintenance and community safety at the Vale Council, said: "We are delighted to see these properties ready for occupation.

"The Vale Council housing strategy team worked in partnership with the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Wales and West Housing – to implement a local lettings policy, which has ensured these homes have been allocated to families in need of an affordable home with a local connection to the area."

ABOVE: Ms Jayne Lynn is looking forward to moving into her new home.

ABOVE: Ms Symone Davies and her son, Ethan, and daughter, Ffion, will soon be moving into their new home.

'Darren Farm our last hope'

I AM all for Darren Farm, but I am getting more and more annoyed at signs and petitions all over Cowbridge to 'save Darren Farm'.

Today, I heard two ladies discussing how if they allow Darren Farm to go ahead, it will drag in the riff-raff and bring down the 'standards' of Cowbridge.

I was absolutely appalled

I grew up in Cowbridge, I work in Cowbridge, my husband works in Cowbridge, my children go to school in Cowbridge, my family live in Cowbridge, and yet we get by living in a home that's classed as statutory overcrowded, just so we can save to one day maybe be able to buy here.

Even as a dual working family, the price of childcare nowadays leaves us with very little to save at the end of the month.

There are so many families like us who work hard and contribute to the community but are slowly being pushed out, due to lack of affordable housing. We deserve to be here!

Darren Farm is our last hope. If it doesn't go ahead, our family (and many like us) will have to leave our home town that we know and love.

So I'm all for Darren Farm and I hope others will speak up because at the end of the day, all I want is for my children to have the same opportunities we had in Cowbridge.

(Name and address supplied.)

The raising of the Mary Rose

THE latest meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens was held on June 19, at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, at 2pm.

The meeting was opened by me with a warm welcome to all present, who repeated the 'Lords' Prayer'. I expressed my appreciation for the good wishes received after a recent operation. Apologies were sent by Maureen Chick.

As a number of problems had arisen concerning recent trips, apologies were made for any confusion and inconvenience caused.

The speaker for the afternoon was Phil Bowen on his interest and research into the *Mary Rose*, a flagship of HenryVIII's fleet.

This was accompanied by his illustrations of documents and artefacts which he had collected.

These, plus his enthusiastic and well researched presentation, made for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Most present had been interested in the news and publicity surrounding the raising of the wreckage of the *Mary Rose* on October 11, 1982, which made it very relevant to all of the audience.

Phil was thanked very much for giving his time and talent to provide a very informative and full account of the last event concerning the long and colourful history of the *Mary Rose*.

He brought history alive to us all. Fortunately, he has another two presentations, one on Carisbrooke Castle and another on Osborne House, both situated on the Isle of Wight, so we are all looking forward to his return visits.

The meeting closed with a discussion on our summer meal on July 17, the venue to be confirmed, but we must have some idea of numbers before we can make reservations.

Please ring me on 01446 775508, or Patricia Prothero on 01446 775097 as soon as possible, in order to make reservations.

MAVIS ASHFORD, CHAIRMAN.

In brief

Cowbridge Library has announced that author Karl-James Langford will sign copies of his book 'Romans in the Vale of Glamorgan' on Monday, June 30 between 11am- 1.30pm.

SCHOOL FAIR

WESTBOURNE School holds its summer fair on Thursday, July 3 from 4pm-6pm at the Hickman Road site; face painting, bouncy castle, raffle, coconut shy, barbecue and hook a duck.

REV SUE THE NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE!

FORMER scientist Rev Sue Rees has been appointed priest-in-charge of the parishes of Pontyclun and Talygarn with Llanharry.

Rev Sue Rees

In Pontyclun and Talygarn, she takes over from Rev Grace Karamura, who left earlier this year after 11 years' service and in Llanharry she takes over from Rev Roger Pitman.

Rev Rees joins the two parishes from Eglwysilan, where she was priest in charge for just over five years. She served her curacies in Roath and Penarth All Saints – both for two-and-a-half years.

She was ordained as a deacon 12 years ago after spending 20 years working as a scientist in the NHS - in the field of cytogenetics - studying chromosome abnormalities.

"I worked in the malignancy section of a regional labratory and was in the front line of diagnosis. I was considering a move up the career ladder to lead a specialised lab when I felt called to switch careers," she explained.

Having been brought up in the church, Sue remained involved throughout her life – often using her lunch hours while working in the NHS to carry out pastoral visits to those in hospital. She also trained and worked as a lay reader prior to seeking selection for ordination.

"Initially, I felt that God wanted me to be a Reader but gradually, I realised that he was calling me for ordination. As both a scientist and a priest, it is people who are at the heart of what I do – whether it's their health or spiritual wholeness that I am dealing with.

"I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone here in my new parishes – to working with everyone and sharing God's love."

In her spare time, Sue is an accomplished needlewoman, knitter and enjoys playing the piano and singing. She has sung with choirs and musical societies in the past.

She will be responsible for St Paul's Church, Pontyclun; St Anne's, Talygarn and St Iltud's, Llanharry.

On June 23, Sue was licensed by Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, who said:

"In her years in the diocese, in a ministry spanning Penarth, Roath and Eglwysilan, Sue Rees has proved a deeply inspiring and faithful priest, a genuinely friendly and rooted person, who easily makes connections with young and old alike, and all stops in between. "

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Double success

LLANGAN School was last week celebrating two accolades.

Miss C Niman, an LSA at the school won first prize in the Cowbridge Book Festival writing competition, and headteacher Mr Steve Williams has received a certificate for excellence in children's activities.

On Thursday, June 26, years 3/4 will go to Parc Slip nature reserve for pond dipping.

Hall activities

MAKE a date to go along to the Community Hall, Treoes on Friday, July 4 at 7pm and enjoy the many activities which will be on offer.

Of special interest to local ladies will be demonstrations on hair, make-up and nails. There is the promise of a variety of stalls with raffles, tombola, prizes to be won. Entrance free.

Diary date

ON July 16, as part of the UK Festival of Archaeology, there will be an illustrated talk by Dr Edith Evans of the Glamorgan-Gwent Trust on historic churches in the Vale, as well as a description of early medieval stones found at St Canna's church, Llangan. Entrance fee £2.

DEDICATED HER LIFE TO FAMILY, CHURCH, AND THE COMMUNITY

Obituary: Anne Robinson, Llanmaes

ON Monday, June 16, over 300 people attended the funeral of Anne Robinson of Llanmaes, at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.

The service was conducted by the Rector, Rev Huw Butler, and the clergy team. Anne, who died on June 4, moved to the Vale of Glamorgan with husband Jeffrey, following their marriage in 1967.

Over the next 47 years, she quietly dedicated her life to the three things that mattered most to her – family, church and community.

Anne was born in Watford in 1942. The Second World War was raging, and her father was an army major fighting overseas, first in North Africa and then as part of the D-Day landings to liberate France.

She didn't meet her father until she was three years old, and their first meeting was a great shock for both of them. After the war, the family settled in Cheshire, where the young Anne Vinall was joined by a brother (Paul), a sister (Janice) and a menagerie of guinea pigs and cats and dogs.

In 1961, Anne met Jeffrey Robinson when both were attending teacher training colleges in Cheltenham. They hit it off straight away.

Later, on a history trip to Germany, Jeff spotted a student writing a letter home to Anne and realised that if he didn't ask her out quickly, he could miss his opportunity.

However, before he got the chance, he had a telephone call from Anne inviting him to go with her to a birthday dinner. They were never apart again and, after getting married they bought their first house in Laburnum Close, Barry.

Two children followed; Justin in 1970 and Stuart in 1973, and in 1975 the family moved to Grange Gardens, Llantwit Major.

In the early 1980s, Anne stood as a Conservative candidate and won a seat on the town council. Sadly, her political career was short lived.

She had good friends on both sides of the political divide and would enthusiastically support any proposals that made sense to her, irrespective of who had proposed them.

When it was explained to her that such cross-party support would not be tolerated, she declared that this was a ridiculous way to get anything done.

Her proudest political achievements were getting cats eyes placed on the road across Llandow, and having railings installed under the railway bridge on Llanmaes Road to protect pedestrians, particularly children walking to and from school.

When another councillor objected to the cost, claiming that railings weren't a high priority because no one had been injured yet, Anne asked if he was prepared to wait until someone was.

She got her way and today, over 30 years later, the cats eyes and the railings are still there, helping to keep people safe.

Anne loved teaching, and taught in many primary schools throughout the Vale. She also tutored pupils at home, helping to identify and overcome their learning difficulties at a time when they felt that school had given up on them.

Later, she helped set up the parish office for the newly formed rectorial benefice of Llantwit Major, with the late Rev David Jenkins.

ANNE ROBINSON.

She threw herself into this new role with her typical enthusiasm and became a very efficient administrator. Anne loved researching, archiving and planning, and often surprised people with what she was able to achieve – whether it was meticulously mapping the graves in Llanmaes churchyard, building websites, preparing a digital archive of marriages and funerals, or creating an extensive church data base.

When she wasn't working, her favourite hobbies included singing in the Cantorian Illtud choir and solving logic problems of such fiendish complexity that her family joked that she should have worked for MI5.

In 1996, Anne became mother-in-law to Helen, a special needs primary teacher, which gave them a common bond. The following year, Anne and Jeff moved to Llanmaes and shortly afterwards they became devoted grandparents to William and Catherine. Following Jeff's retirement as Principal of Colleg Gwent in 2004, he and Anne worked together to facilitate several important projects for the village, such as the restorations to St Cattwg's Church and the building of a new kitchen extension in the village hall.

Always hospitable, they once memorably opened their home to a BBC team filming a new comedy series at the church, which led to the full cast and crew of *Gavin and Stacey* arriving on the doorstep to use their bathroom!

Last September, shortly after returning from the annual family holiday in Devon, a routine X-ray discovered a cancerous tumour in one of Anne's lungs.

Determined not to let herself become defined by this dreadful disease, she endured lengthy and often gruelling treatment, and was thrilled when a new scan in April showed that the cancer had gone.

However, the family's joy was short lived, as Anne's weakened immune system left her prone to infection. Hospitalised with pneumonia, she fought her way back to health, only to fall victim to it again.

She recovered once more, and went to the Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre in Penarth to rest and recuperate. Then, on the very day she was due to come home, pneumonia suddenly struck again and Anne died just a few hours later, surrounded by her shocked family.

Anne's genuine kindness, inner calm, focused determination and sense of fun made her utterly unforgettable to those fortunate enough to know her. A much loved sister, wife, mother, aunt, Nana and friend, she will be greatly missed.

Idea came to a head on the school run

TWO like-minded dads, who launched a new Vale of Glamorgan craft brewery after meeting on the school run, have revealed their company's new look after receiving support from Creative Rural Communities (CRC).

Rolant Tomos and Rob Lilford officially unveiled new branding for Tomos a Lilford Brewery, that has been designed with funding secured from CRC's Local Food Champions project.

Rob, an electrician by trade, met business mentor Rolant on a busy school run.

"We discovered that we had a lot in common, including an interest in home-brewing.

"I've always dreamt of owning a brewery, as every sensible young man does, and when I told Rolant about this, he said he may be able to help with his experience as a business mentor."

After two years of planning, and signing up Rob's younger brother Jim, Tomos a Lilford now produces four core ales including Rosemary ale, Hay ale, the Personal Best bitter and Trip-hop.

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Vale soldier has £21,000 boost for the Heroes

ABOVE: The intrepid team who set out for the Vale from Brize Norton – back row, Joe McCann and Jamie Turnbull; front, Mark Bewick and Steve Hillbeck.

by TIM CHAPMAN

A Barry soldier who took part in a bike ride from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire to Fontygary Leisure Park in the Vale late last year has helped to raise more than £21,000 for Help for Heroes.

Joe McCann, aged 32, has a lot to thank the charity for because he received treatment for a spinal injury at its rehabilitation complex based at Headley Court.

Joe, a former pupil at St Cyres School, told The GEM: "Jamie Turbull, Stephen Hillbeck, Mark Bewick and I are all based at AMS Squadron, Brize Norton, and we decided to do a bike ride from RAF Brize Norton to Rhoose in last year.

"We completed the ride over a four-day period stopping off at various schools and British Legion clubs to promote the Help for Heroes charity.

"We also held a black tie dinner at the Vale Hotel at the end of the ride with 100 guests present.

"The reason for doing this was that I was injured on duty and sustained injuries which made me unable to carry out my career in the regiment which I had been with for five years.

"I was treated at Headley Court for my injuries and H4H played a huge part in my recovery."

The GEM covered the ride at the time and Joe and his fellow cyclists endured poor weather.

"The ride was demanding for us because it was the middle of October and the weather wasn't on our side."

Since the ride, the men have continued fundraising in a bid to break through their target figure.

Joe explained: "Through to the middle of March this year, we continued to raise money mainly at Asda stores in Swindon, Cardiff and Newcastle.

"We set a target of £20,000 and actually raised £21,177."

The presentation to the charity was made at the Tower of London with General Lord Dannatt the president of Help for Heroes present.

Joe added: "I also want to thank our families and friends for their support.

"Other companies and organisations also helped us including Cyberbond, GDL Solutions, The Blue Anchor, Fontygary Parks, The Vale Hotel, Rob Salter (DJ at the Vale) Asda, The Hanover Court ladies, The Bay Salon and Perfect Finish.

"Dan Mathews worked out a training programme for us and Trevor Park of Rhoose bought one of our bikes at the Vale Hotel fundraiser.

"Thanks also go to The GEM for telling our story.

"We appreciate all the support for us, the Help for Heroes Charity and our troops."

ABOVE: Joe, Jamie and Stephen made the cheque presentation at the Tower of London to General Lord Dannatt, president of Help for Heroes. Also present was Group Captain Lushington, the RAF Brize Norton Station Commander

ART STUDENTS STAGE DIVERSE EXHIBITION

ON Tuesday, June 17, Llantwit Major School hosted an excellent art exhibition evening.

Pupils who have recently completed their AS and A-Level art and design studies showcased their exceptional work. Parents, staff and past pupils were present to celebrate their success.

This year, the work has been very diverse with a range of media and themes being used. As always the pupils have really made us proud with their level of commitment and motivation for our subject.

We will really miss our year-13 pupils and wish them all the best in their future career choices. **SB**

Vale Red Cross volunteers go to a right royal Garden Party!

ABOVE: Pictured at Buckingham Palace are: Neil McKay (volunteer from the Penarth shop); Janis Ottanelli (manager, Llantwit clothing shop); Lynda Stead (assistant manager, Llantwit clothing shop); Chetna Devalia (Llantwit F&E shop); and Rebecca (a volunteer at the Llantwit clothing shop).

VOLUNTEERS from the Vale were recently invited to Buckingham Palace for a royal Garden Party in honour of the British Red Cross.

The garden party was to mark 150 years of humanitarian action, and was sponsored by Land-Rover on Thursday, June 12.

Janis Ottanelli, the manager of the Llantwit Major Red Cross shop, told The GEM: "It was a glorious day and we were very honoured to see the President, HRH The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, and the Deputy President, HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, KG.

"We had a scrumptious tea and listened to two military bands during the afternoon, followed by a performance by dancers from KwaZulu-Natal South Africa.

"We were given a personal Pou Memoire to frame and a remembrance badge. It was a truly wonderful day, that will remain in our memories for ever".

Red Arrows to display at Wartime Weekend

THE world's premier aerial display team, the Red Arrows, will provide the highlight to this year's Barry Wartime Weekend.

Taking place at the Barry Tourist Railway, this year's event will seek to remember the part that the region played during both the Great War, and the Second World War.

Event organiser Ade Pitman said: "The Barry Tourist Railway team have done a fantastic job in securing the Red Arrows for this year's annual event, and we're sure that their aerial display will attract thousands of extra visitors to Barry Island.

"There are, however, a few details to run through, due to the proximity of Cardiff Airport, and we will advise the timings of the display once we know more.

"The securing of this display is recognition that the Barry Wartime Weekend has become one of Barry's premier summer events, and is well thought of in heritage tourism circles.

"Thanks must go to both Barry Town Council, and the Vale Council for their support this year, along with Newydd Housing, John's Cafe, Hot Diggedy Dog and Specktrum Graphics for their kind sponsorship.

"This will once again enable us to make Barry Wartime Weekend a free educational attraction for all the family.

"This year's event will once again feature living historians, military vehicles and wartime themed stalls, but we'd also like to hear from face-painters and other traders who would like to attend.

"The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre wartime museum will be open throughout the event, providing the opportunity to visit our Great War trench scene.

"The Barry Tourist Railway will be operating a Great War era steam train throughout the event.

"We would also like to hear from potential sponsors so we can bring in even more attractions to make this year's Barry Wartime Weekend the best yet; which is fitting for this commemorative year."

Barry Wartime Weekend will take place on the weekend of August 30-31.

*For more information, see website at www.wartimeweekend.co.uk or call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.*abc

Evan's Ffos Las winner

THE Ffos LAS Racecourse celebrated its fifth anniversary meeting last week and Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who made turf history when saddling Plunkett to win the very first race at Britain's youngest racecourse, was the only Welsh trainer to have a winner there last week.

His Traditional Bob, riddden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, was made a 2-1 favourite and won by three and three quarters of a length from Papradon.

BRIAN LEE

You can find The GEM on Twitter - follow us: @gem_news

Man is found dead in Barry

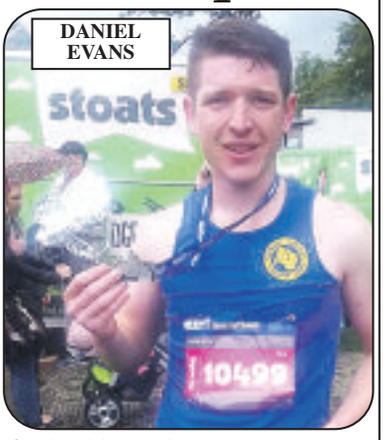
A MAN in his early 20s was found dead in Barry last Thursday (June 19).

In a statement, South Wales Police said they were called to a sudden death near Argae Lane.

The statement added: "At this time, there appear to be no suspicious circumstances. Close relatives are being informed".

Daniel's marathon for Welsh hospice

IN May, Daniel Evans from Llantwit Major, ran the Edinburgh marathon on behalf of George Thomas hospice care, based in Whitchurch.



DANIEL EVANS

Daniel said: "I chose this charity as I felt the need to repay them for the care and support they gave my nan, Nancy Evans, and my family when my nan became ill.

"It was very physically and mentally challenging to run the 26.2 mile course and I completed it in just under 5 hours 20 minutes.

"All sponsorship money raised will be going to this good cause and my just giving page is https://www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Evans21/

"If anybody could spare any small change it would be much appreciated."

Dog's owner sought

VALE Council dog wardens are searching for the owner of an abandoned whippet, found straying in the Llandow area on June 16.

Anyone with information can telephone 01446 709105 to speak to dog warden Jake Harris, or email tscomplaints@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

MERCHED Y WAWR IN THE COMMONS

MEMBERS of Merched y Wawr Cowbridge met local MP Alun Cairns recently at Westminster, before they were taken on a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

The Welsh language women's group later took their seats in the public gallery in the House of Commons.

CHARITIES ENJOY BAG WINDFALL

EIGHT local charities have shared in the proceeds of the carrier bag levy at Sainsbury's stores – as part of the Welsh Community Fund.

The charities could apply online for a chance to have part of a grant of up to £500. Sainsbury's Bridgend invited all of the successful local charities in to the store to congratulate them on their award and to highlight the amazing work they do within their charities.

The charities which were able to attend were Mental Health Matters Wales, Maesteg Canoe Club, Bridgend County RDA Group, Sustainable Wick Community Group, Dewis Housing, Bridgend Women's Aid and Adoption UK.

The raising of the Mary Rose

THE latest meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens was held on June 19, at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, at 2pm.

It opened with a warm welcome to all present, who repeated the 'Lords' Prayer'. I expressed my appreciation for the good wishes received after a recent operation. Apologies were sent by Maureen Chick.

As a number of problems had arisen concerning recent trips, apologies were made for any confusion and inconvenience caused.

The speaker for the afternoon was Phil Bowen concerning his interest and research into the *Mary Rose*, flagship of Henry VIII's fleet.

This was accompanied by illustrations of documents and artefacts which he had collected.

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Please ring me on 01446 775508 or Patricia Prothero on 01446 775097 as soon as possible in order to make reservations.

MAVIS ASHFORD, CHAIRMAN.

FAMILY FUN

A World Cup family fun day is being held on Saturday, July 5, from 3pm 'til late at The Winchfield, Craig Penllyn, Cowbridge, CF71 7RT.

It is a fundraiser – £1,000 for the opening of the new goal posts. Live music, stalls, bring a picnic, children's games and races, bouncy castle, bar, barbecue, penalty shoot out, police car, glitter tattoos, face painting, go- kart race, water slide.

Donations of cakes, books and wine – please come along for a great day out; enter into a free prize draw when donating per family picnic rug/table.

Contact Barbara Smith on 01446 772071 for more details.

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Alun Cairns MP

Vale of Glamorgan

Will be holding a surgery at the McDonald's restaurant in Barry.

10:00 - 11:30

Saturday 5th July 2014

No appointment necessary, come along to discuss any issues you have or for support and advice.

www.aluncairns.com

@aluncairns

You can now find The GEM on Facebook and Twitter - *facebook.com/GlamorganGEM*, and follow us: *@gem_news*

IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL BRO MORGANNWG

Iwan Mepham.

REPORTERS OF THE FUTURE!

Outstanding!

Congratulations to Mr Richard Chidley, head of PE, who recently became the first person to receive the Outstanding Contribution to Football award from Cardiff & Vale Schools FA.

Matt Davies, of CVSFA, said of the awards evening: "Some great speeches and awards recognising not just the outstanding sporting achievements of our students but also of our great teachers.

"We were delighted that Richard accepted the honour of being the first recipient for his outstanding contribution to football."

Mr Chidley (pictured, above with Wales manager Chris Coleman and representatives from CVSFA, said it was an honour to be the first person chosen to receive the award.

Two picked for Wales Games team

Iwan Mepham and Tom Williams have been included in the Wales team for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games.

Current sixth form pupil Iwan will be part of the gymnastics squad and ex-pupil Tom will feature in the seven-a-side Rugby team. Good luck to them both in Glasgow.

Reporters of the future!

RECENTLY, pupils from years 8, 9 and 10 discussed the school's health and wellbeing campaigns with the Ffeil television programme as well as a radio reporter.

They also had an opportunity to speak with Stephen Maske, a specialist from Canada.

The pupils were praised by the visitors for their abilities and contributions.

TREV's ADVICE!

OFFICERS from the Safer Vale Partnership, and partner teams from the Vale Council, will be at King's Square, Barry on Tuesday, July 8 between 10am and 1pm, with TREV (The Reassurance Engagement Vehicle), from South Wales Police.

The public will be offered advice on all types of community safety issues, including anti-social behaviour and crime prevention.

PACT MEETINGS

ILLTYD PACT at Sir Samuel Romilly public house, Broad Street, Barry on Wednesday, July 2 at 3pm.

COURT PACT at the New Scout Hall, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, July 10 at 6pm.

BUTTRILLS PACT at Barry Library, Kings Square, on Thursday, Juy 10 at 6.30pm.

COFFEE and chat meeting at the Fox and Hounds public house, Llancarfan, on Thursday, June 26 at 11am.

COFFEE and chat meeting at the Green Dragon public house, Llancadle, on Tuesday, July 15 at 11am.

Public meeting at Bethesda Church, Fairoaks, Dinas Powys, on Monday, July 21 at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINE public meeting wil be held at the Windsor Arms public house, Penarth, on Wednesday, July 23 at 7pm.

FOE meeting

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, July 1, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Items for discussion include the many objections concerning green field housing developments, from Primrose Hill in Cowbridge, to Aberthin and from Ystradowen to Dinas Powys.

Barry and Vale FoE continue to support all those opposed to fracking, wherever the latest threat arises. See FoE Cymru for July 5 Anti-Fracking day.

Recyling is a major issue at the moment. Those who do recycle, would like to see their carefully treated waste going to some good end, not to a landfill somewhere in the world, or to be burned-off in an incinerator.

Keith Stockdale

320 families in the rural Vale are in need of an affordable home but are priced out of the market.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and its partners are working hard to build new affordable homes.

Call your Rural Housing Enabler on **01446 709237** or **efaulkner@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** for advice.

Tweet your support by using the hashtag #ruralweek14

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Wales must follow Gove model for education'

Vale MP ALUN CAIRNS reports to Glamorgan GEM readers

SOME time ago, I wrote about my concerns over changes Labour in Cardiff Bay were making to the exam system in Wales, that bring significant risks to pupils, teachers and employers.

The revelation this week that independent schools in Wales are rejecting the Cardiff Bay model, and are to follow the England system, sadly underlines my doubts. It raises serious questions about the direction of policy being pursued by Welsh Labour.

The background stems from Michael Gove's plan to reintroduce rigour to the exam system in England. Frequent re-sits of in-year modules have been removed and more focus is given to the exam at the end of the course.

These changes apply to England only. Labour in Cardiff Bay have decided to follow a different path for Wales.

In Wales, there will be new courses in English, Welsh and mathematics, broadly based on the current GCSE structures.

In England, a new grading system will use numbers, instead of letters, and coursework is being scrapped for most subjects.

Earlier this week, independent schools based in Wales stated that they would follow Michael Gove's model. They claim that the Cardiff Bay approach "lacks credibility and portability".

Some state schools are also considering following the England model for English GCSEs. This also suggests a lack of confidence among teachers, parents and governors locally.

In fairness to our pupils, we need to ensure that the qualifications they achieve are recognised across the UK and beyond. The risk means they could be held back from achieving their full potential of the best employment and university prospects.

The Welsh Bacc has been in place for many years and was intended to offer Welsh pupils an extra broad-based qualification to give them an advantage for university and employment. Sadly, the Baccalaureate version that the Cardiff Bay Ministers pursued is not recognised by some Oxford, Cambridge or Warwick colleges.

It is difficult to believe that the world-renowned International Baccalaureate was developed locally at Atlantic College in St Donats. Their recommendations were rejected by Assembly Ministers and our pupils are not gaining the edge that they were promised.

Only last week, former Labour Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy MP expressed his concerns about the qualification, over why it is failing in helping students get to Oxbridge.

As a parent of a 10-year-old, I am desperately concerned about the direction of policy. The rejection of Wales GCSEs by independent schools suggest that the Welsh Bacc failure is being repeated. Cardiff Bay ministers are risking our children's qualification becoming marginalised with qualifications that are not recognised universally.

I hope that local schools will be given a choice of which qualifications to pursue.

It is testament to the talent of our teachers and work of our pupils that they manage to succeed in their examinations, when the amount spent on their education is so much significantly less than for pupils in England.

For my son, and for all pupils and parents across Wales, I want future Welsh qualifications to be internationally recognised – robust, rigorous, and include comparable global benchmarks, along the Gove model.

Only then will Wales' position in the PISA education international league table be improved. As it stands, education in Wales is seen as 43rd out of 65 countries. All other nations across the UK scored better.

Dog abandoned on local beach now recovering

A DOG found abandoned on Llantwit Major beach on June 13, is now being nursed back to health at Croft Kennels in Bridgend.

It was left tied to a post in the sun, with no water or shade, and with a sign tied around its neck saying that it had been abandoned.

The dog was found by caring resident Glenda Jenkins, who took it to the animal health centre in Boverton.

The dog was found to have developed a skin condition due to being exposed to the sun for too long, but after a few days' treatment is said to be "markedly better".

• The Vale Council's animal welfare team, which is investigating the incident, says it has traced the owner from information provided by the public.

Community cabinet meets in Llantwit

THE next community cabinet meeting will be held at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School in Ham Lane East, on Monday, June 30 from 6pm to 8pm.

Proceedings will begin with the cabinet meeting, which will be followed by a public question and answer session.

All residents are invited to attend to talk to the cabinet members and ask any questions.

For further information, contact cabinet officer Mark Petherick on 01446 709853 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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PICTURED (left to right): John Lougher, Clive Thomas, Coun Ray Thomas (chairman), Chris Champion, John Hanks and John Arnott.

This year's first Vale Show Champion!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society was delighted recently to present Chris Champion with the annual award for 'Outstanding Services to Agriculture' in the Vale.

He has worked for Countrywide Farmers in Bridgend for 32 years. During his working life, Chris has gone over and above the call of duty to help the farmers of Glamorgan, which is why he has won this prestigious award, *a spokesperson reports*.

Chris started his career at R Townsend, which incorporated Eddie John at Eagle Stores in Cowbridge in 1972. When Townsend was swallowed up by Dalgetty, Chris moved on to join West Midland Farmers on Tremains Road in Bridgend in 1982. The company moved to their present site on Bridgend Industrial Estate in 1988 and in 2000, Countrywide Farmers took over.

Chris is married with four grown-up children and lives in Bridgend. His interests are mainly his job and his love of gardening. He has an allotment at Coychurch Road and last year won the award for the best allotment in Bridgend – no mean achievement!

Chris is a previous winner of horticultural awards at the Vale Show, some of which he still displays at home. Not one to sit still, Chris climbed Snowdon a few weeks ago, a very enjoyable if exhausting feat.

As a coincidence, Chris was in school with Dave Tew, who won the Services to Agriculture award last year.

Things are now falling into place in the organisation of the Vale of Glamorgan Show. to be held on August 13 at Fonmon Castle. It promises to be an excellent event this year with a new poultry show, new-look horticultural show, new fleece competition and new Vale Farmers market food court, along with all the other exciting attractions the show regularly brings.

Schedules and trade stand forms are all now available on line www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk and any further information can be obtained by telephoning 01446 710099 or emailing Nicola at vale.show@btinternet.com.

Asthma Cymru advice session

DO you suffer from asthma? Have you recently been diagnosed with asthma? Are you a carer looking after someone with this condition?

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale are holding a health topic session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, July 1 from 10am to 12pm where Asthma Cymru health care professionals will be available to have a chat informally on what practical and emotional support is available. *Easy to read materials are available. No appointment is needed; just come along. Contact 01446 747654 for further information.*

Local young farmers get cash from carrier bags!

ABOVE (left to right): Kate Thomas (Maendy YFC secretary); Lucy Williams; Ed Folley (Llantrisant YFC chairman); Laura Miles; Gwyneth Thomas; Beth John; Tomas Austin and Hayley Leighton.

PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK.

THE Glamorgan Young Farmers have had a financial windfall of more than £17,000 – thanks to carrier bags!

Earlier this month, a cheque was donated on behalf of the eight Waitrose branches in Wales and it was for the total amount raised from the Welsh Government's carrier bag charges.

A Waitrose spokesperson said: "Each of the Welsh branches had to nominate two charities or good causes that the branch had supported over the last year through our Community Matters scheme (green tokens)

"The Glamorgan Young Farmers were nominated by Waitrose Cowbridge. The same amount was also donated to the Gwent Wildlife Trust, who received their cheque from our Caldicot branch".

FOOD POISONING DANGER WARNING

'Don't wash raw chicken before you cook it!'

THE Food Standard Agency has launched a national campaign to warn the public of the dangers of Campylobacter bacteria, which can be spread by washing raw chicken.

The bacteria is responsible for around 280,000 cases of food poisoning in the UK every year, and can be spread by washing raw chicken, as the water droplets splash on to hands, work surfaces, clothing and cooking equipment.

People are therefore advised not to wash raw chicken before cooking it.

The call has been supported by Bridgend County Borough Council as research shows that 44 per cent of people always wash chicken. Coun David Sage, deputy leader, urged residents to heed the advice and change their ways.

HISTORY TALK

RHOOSE and District History Society is hosting a John Prior-Morris on 'The Coal Owning Insoles of Llandaff' on Friday, June 27 at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road. Tickets at the door £1 (adult) and 50p (child under 16).

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Hair and beauty students are off to the Big Apple...

A TEAM of five trainee beauticians from Cardiff and Vale College flew to New York last week, after winning a UK-wide enterprise competition.

The Chameleon Nails team beat off competition from 19 colleges from across the UK to win the prestigious Market Maker trophy with their bespoke nail varnish matching service.

As part of their prize, they went to the Big Apple to hone their business skills and demonstrate their product at the City University of New York.

The students were presented with their trophy by Institute of Directors Wales regional director Robert Lloyd Griffiths, OBE. The final of the Market Maker competition was held in the IoD's London headquarters.

The Chameleon Nails team - comprising Emma Nicolaou from Barry, Heidi Morgan from Llantwit Major, and Sophie Andrews, Chantelle Djaiz and Hollie Stark, all from Cardiff – had to market their nail varnish matching service in a virtual trading environment. The judges were impressed by their confidence, preparation, sales figures, research and brand marketing potential.

The five students took part in the Market Maker competition as part of the enterprise module of their Welsh Baccalaureate.

PICTURED: Head of hair, beauty and complementary therapies, Ceri Evans; principal and chief executive, Mike James; hair and beauty tutor, Cat Hillier; director of curriculum, Anne Parkin; deputy principal Kay Martin; Hollie Stark; Sophie Andrews; Heidi Morgan; IoD Wales regional director, Robert Lloyd Griffiths; head of entrepreneurship, employability and enrichment, Tania Davies and chair of governors, Geraint Evans outside the college's new £45m campus development at Canal Parade in Cardiff.

Firm fined after worker loses leg in scaffold fall

A WORKER who had no recognised training as a scaffolder, had to have a lower leg amputated after he fell from unguarded scaffolding, a court has heard.

Andrew Gore (37), from Mountain Ash, was helping to dismantle the scaffolding outside a nursing home in Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend, when he fell around four metres to the ground.

The incident, in June 2013, was investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which prosecuted his employers, Mills Scaffold Company Limited, at Bridgend Magistrates on June 23.

The court heard that the scaffold, erected by Mills Scaffold Company Ltd, was three lifts high and Mr Gore was working on the second lift. Another scaffolder was on the lift above, passing down parts of the scaffold to him, which he, in turn, passed on to a labourer on the ground.

Mr Gore was not wearing a harness and the lift was just two boards wide. The firm had failed to put any guardrails in place. Mr Gore had undone the swivel coupling at the bottom of a brace, which he then inadvertently leaned on.

The brace moved and he fell to the ground, causing severe injuries. Since the incident, he has spent most of the last year in hospital and undergone a number of operations.

The incident was only reported to HSE six months later, when he made an insurance claim after he had to have his lower leg amputated, because of an infection following the injury. The company was issued with a Prohibition Notice by HSE in 2012 for a similar offence.

HSE's investigation found that Mr Gore had not been given training in the safe erection or dismantling of scaffolding.

Mills Scaffold Company Ltd of Church Street, Mountain Ash, pleaded guilty to a breach of the Work at Height regulations and Reporting of Injuries Regulations, as the incident was not reported to HSE. The company was fined a total of £15,000 and ordered to pay £1,118 in costs.

HSE Inspector Hayley Healey, speaking after the hearing, said: "Mr Gore has suffered a great deal of pain and life-changing injuries. As a single parent of two young children, one of whom he has custody for, his life has changed dramatically.

"This was a totally needless incident which could have been avoided if Mills Scaffold Company had ensured a safe system of work had been in place. And it was their responsibility to make sure trained workers were used on the scaffolding. There is plenty of industry guidance available about safely dismantling scaffolding.

"If simple methods of work had been followed, levels of competency checked and good supervision in place on site, this work could have been carried out safely.

"Falls from height remains one of the most common causes of fatalities and major injuries in the construction industry, with more than five incidents every day."

AM raises spectre of council tax rise

THE Conservatives and Labour are already at war over the level of council tax next year, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

The row was triggered by a question asked by the Conservative Leader in The Senedd, Andrew RT Davies.

Mr Davies insists that the answer he received from Leslie Griffiths AM – the Minister for Local Government, means that Welsh council tax payers, including those in the Vale, face further increases next year.

He said that the Minister was asked to commit to a council tax freeze and refused to do so, instead suggesting that the Welsh Labour Government plans to tell the UK Government "what it can do with its council tax freeze".

Mr Davies said: "In recent years, Vale residents have faced among the highest council tax rises in the UK, despite money having been made available by the UK government to freeze council tax in Wales.

"In England a local referendum must be held where any council wishes to hike rates by more than 2 per cent. A similar requirement in Wales would have given Vale residents the opportunity to reject this year's 4.5 per cent tax hike.

"Council tax has been frozen for years in much of England and Scotland, but the Labour Party continue to refuse to share this freeze with local ratepayers."

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council said: "When funding has been received in Wales as a result of the UK Government's decision to freeze council tax, it has been the responsibility of Welsh Ministers and not local authorities to decide how that money is spent in Wales.

"A decision was taken by Ministers not to pass the funding on to local authorities for this purpose, but instead the Welsh Government used that extra funding to help and support measures to stimulate the economy and protect jobs, in line with their longer term economic strategy.

"That is a matter for Welsh Government to decide."

"As a result, it is, therefore, the responsibility of each local authority in Wales to set its council tax level, bearing in mind the rate support grant received, their funding requirement and at what level their council tax is, particularly in comparison with the average council tax in Wales.

"Local authorities must take account of the demand for local services when setting council tax levels. Councils have a duty to consider carefully the balance between sustaining key services for residents and limiting the financial pressures on local taxpayers.

"For 2014/15, the Vale Council's funding from Welsh Government was reduced by about £8.5 million.

"It was the Council's view that an increase in council tax of 4.5 per cent represented a reasonable compromise between the pressure on services (particularly in light of the significant reduction in funding and consequent level of savings required) and the financial pressures facing council taxpayers.

"The increases have had to be made to make up the shortfall against the average council tax in Wales, because Mr Davies's colleagues, who previously ran the council, failed to increase council taxes in the past.

"The level of council tax in the Vale is still below the average in Wales."

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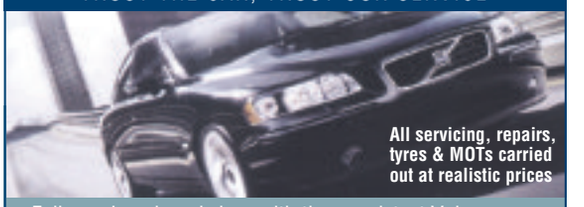
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Charles and Camilla heading for the Vale and Pencoed!

NEXT Tuesday (July 1), royal watchers will be out in force as Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, will be making three visits to the Vale and Bridgend county borough.

The day starts with a visit to the newly-restored Galilee Chapel in Llantwit Major, which now holds one of the most important collections of Celtic Christian stones in the UK.

The royal party are expected to stay for an hour. A walkabout through the old section of the town is planned, but no details have been released yet.

The next stop for Charles and Camilla is Dyffryn House and Gardens.

Prince Charles last visited the house in 2007. Since then, the National Trust has taken over the running of the house, and a major restoration project is under way.

Following that visit, Charles and Camilla will attend separate engagements.

While the Duchess visits the Welsh War Memorial in Cardiff, The Prince of Wales will tour Sony's Bridgend factory.

The company was particularly keen for the Prince to revisit the plant since he played a key role in bringing the factory to Wales in the first place.

In 1972, while on tour to Japan, he met Akio Morita and suggested to him the idea of establishing a Sony plant in Wales.

Two years later, the original factory was opened, and since then it has provided considerable employment opportunities in the area, with 340 people currently directly employed by Sony.

There are four main areas of business at the Sony UK Technology Centre – the manufacture of high-quality broadcast and professional cameras and camera systems, Sony's main UK and European Customer Service and Repairs Centre and third-party contract manufacturing which includes the Raspberry Pi, a credit card sized mini-computer.

It also has a Business Incubation Centre, which now houses 34 related start-ups who are able to access specialist support services, employing approximately 260 people who are based at the Sony UK Technology Centre.

Vale Ramblers are there for the Solstice sunrise

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers put on an early morning adventure walk on June 21 to welcome the Summer Solstice.

The plan was to walk up Pen y Fan to greet the new day.

Weather reports looked good; in fact, a clear night was predicted. It was all systems go, and we met at Pontyclun car park at 1am before making our way to Storey Arms to start the walk.

Arriving at the Storey Arms, it was obvious we would not be on our own at the top, quite a few cars were there already. Nineteen walkers, eagerly put on their boots in the car park, made sure we had our torches and warm clothing.

Del Rees had promised hot drinks at the top, so between us, as well as having prepared flasks, we were transporting gas canisters, portable camping stove, and water up to the top.

In the distance, there was already a red hue and this was still only 3am, although Corn Du was still a dark silhouette until we got closer. When we got to the ridge, we were welcomed to a glorious moon, shining bright and helping us to make our way. From Corn Du, we made our way up to the top of Pen y Fan. The portable cooker was lit, and the kettle was put on to boil. Hot drinks in hand, we eagerly waited to greet the new dawn.

All eyes were to the east, as the sun made its appearance slowly. By this time, there were quite a few people on the top. Some intrepid campers had carried their tents and equipment up there to spend the night waiting.

We were all enraptured by the beauty of the moment. Once the sun had risen, it was a mass exodus down the hill, although as were descending quite a few people were making their way to the top.

Thanks to Del Rees for organising this expedition, the next such thing is in August when a group will make their way to observe the supermoon. I'm sure it will be as pleasing an experience as the sunrise was on Midsummer's day.

Further details of walks are available at http://www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk/.

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Excited Dyffryn gets set to welcome the royal couple

DYFFRYN GARDENS will host a visit from Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall next Tuesday (July 1), to coincide with its dahlia trial centenary.

The royal couple will be joined by the Lord Lieutenant and his wife for a tour of the house and gardens, to catch up on progress since the last royal visit in 2007.

"There have been a lot of changes since I last took Prince Charles around the gardens. We now have a fantastic glasshouse and productive kitchen garden and access into the house, all of which were derelict at that time.

"There's been tremendous work by staff, contractors and volunteers to transform Dyffryn and the royal guests will be meeting some of these people and local associated groups. We're looking forward to a great day," said Geraldine Donovan, general manager.

Among those working hard to bring it back to its former splendour are the Friends of Dyffryn.

"The Friends have been fundraising and supporting Dyffryn for many years. It will be very exciting to meet the royal visitors and show them all the hard work that has been done by everyone involved for this truly special place in Wales," said Barbara Hodges, of the Friends.

Dyffryn is celebrating its 100th anniversary of the dahlia trials conducted in 1914; it was a hugely significant event in horticultural circles. To mark the occasion the royals will be invited to plant a tree dahlia in the exotics bed.

Children from St Nicholas Primary School have been involved in preparing the grounds, creating hundreds of colourful butterflies to decorate the borders.

Justin Albert, director for National Trust in Wales, said:"I am delighted to welcome our royal guests to Dyffryn House and Gardens, our newest member of the National Trust family in Wales.

"It is an exciting time for Dyffryn as we build on the excellent work the Vale Council has done in the past decades with support of Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadw".

"We are very proud to be playing such a significant role in safeguarding these magnificent gardens and house for future generations to be able to explore and enjoy."

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GATHERING OF AUTHORS

BARRY County Library will be hosting its authors' event – 'June is booking out all over' – on June 28, from 10.30am.

Anyone interested in writing can get advice from well-known authors from all over Wales.

They include local author Eileen Younghusband, best known for her book *One Woman's War*, on her experiences during World War Two; *Hearts of Gold* author Catrin Collier, who helped organise the event, and novelist and poet Phil Carradice.

Contact Alision Singleton at Barry County Library on 01446 422425 or 01446 422411, or email barrylibrary@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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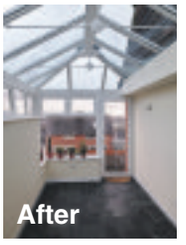
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'PLEASE SUPPORT ANNUAL SCOUTS AND GUIDES FETE'

BARRY Scouts and Guides are urging members of the public and local businesses to support this year's annual fete on Saturday, July 5 as they are still recovering from the effects of the 2012 fete which was cancelled at the last-minute due to bad weather.

It costs almost £10,000 to stage the fete for Scouts and Girl Guides, and if the weather were to fail the organisations, almost 10 per cent of the costs of running vital training programmes throughout the year could be lost.

Fete Chair, Cathie Steele, said: "Despite the nice weather last year, the Scouts and Guides in the district are still suffering from the loss of income from the previous year's fete which involved having to use reserves to maintain their normal programme of activities.

"If the weather is fine and we can attract our usual audience of some 7,000 people, then any funds raised go direct to the individual groups. Therefore this year, more than ever, we need support via sponsors, patrons and on the day."

This year's fete marks 100 years of the Brownie section, and the day will be supported by 1st Rogerstone Scout Band, Wales' only remaining Scout band.

Entrance will be via a lucky draw programme costing £2 which can be purchased from all Scout and Guide groups or on the day at the gates. Children under five go free.

Each programme purchased can be entered into the prize draw:

1st Prize – £250; 2nd Prize – £50; 3rd Prize – £25; 4th Prize – £20 gift voucher for Cadwaladers Ice Cream Ltd, and 5th Prize – Barrybados gift set.

The fete committee would like to thank all those who have so readily helped to organise this year's fete and especially to the patrons below who have financially supported the committee:

Mr RCH Forbes, Mr C J Hicks, Miss JE Hutt, Mrs V Kirby, Mr DG Lambert, Mr B Marsh, Mr Colin Roberts, Mr P Walters, Mr J V Wilkins Mr K Williams, Coun F Johnson, Mr RJ Bertin, and Mr J Hardman.

Cathie added: "Please spend generously on the day and thank you for your support."

For further details on the fete see our website www.barryscouts.org/fete or follow us on twitter @BarryFete.

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THE MAYOR OF BARRY
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Wishes the Barry Scouts and Guides a Successful Fete

MAE MAYOR Y BARRI
Y CYNGHORYDD JEFF EVANS
Dymuno i'r Sgowtiaid y Barri a Arweinyddiau ffair lwyddiannus

Barry Scouts and Guides 2014

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor Howard Hamilton, is pleased to support the Barry Scouts and Guides 2014 fete and wishes them a successful event

Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2014

Mae Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Howard Hamilton, yn falch o gael cefnogi Gwyl Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2014 ac yn dymuno pob llwyddiant iddi.

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New playground is open at Ty Hafan

ALL PICTURES BY CHRISTOPHER SOEDER

TŶ HAFAN, the family hospice for young lives at Sully, officially opened its new desert island-themed playground in Children's Hospice Week.

It is accessible for wheelchair users and equipment has been selected with integration in mind. The state-of-the-art facility includes a race track, wheelchair trampoline, wheelchair see-saw and bespoke lighthouse.

Other features include wheelchair swings, slides, a sunlight tunnel and a light wall.

For many of the children supported by Tŷ Hafan, it will be the first time they will be able to use a playground due to their conditions.

Five-year-old Lewis Smith and his mum Nichola from Llantwit Fardre cut the ribbon (*above*) to officially open the playground overlooking the Bristol Channel. Lewis suffers from Tuberous Sclerosis and was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010.

His mum Nichola said: "The playground is a dream come true for children in wheelchairs.

"Lewis is quite movement-dependant so the playground is a fantastic facility for him to not only have fun, but it also helps to relax and soothe him. I never thought it would be possible to have a wheelchair trampoline – it's absolutely fantastic!

RUGBY STARS HIT THE PEAKS FOR TY HAFAN

FORMER Wales rugby star Colin Charvis was part of a Welsh Heroes Team which tackled the GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks Challenge in aid of Tŷ Hafan.

He joined former Welsh rugby internationals, Cowbridge-born Rhys Williams, and Mark Jones, along with Duane Goodfield, formerly of Cardiff Blues and the Dragons (right) for the event, sponsored by GE Aviation Wales.

But according to Colin, "the real heroes are the children and families supported by Tŷ Hafan".

The challenge, which took place during Children's Hospice Week, (June13-20) saw 64 teams from across Wales taking part to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan.

The event is expected to raise more than £70,000 for Tŷ Hafan, which needs to raise £3.7m each year to run its services.

To find out about Tŷ Hafan's calendar of events, please visit wwww.tyhafan.org.

GROUP'S NEW DINNER MENU!

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale Ageing Well Project in Barry are introducing a new dinner hour menu where both mini and larger meals will be available at modest prices.

Contact Senior Health Shop on 01446 747654, for further information.

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Live a life of adventure
WITH MARIA LEIJERSTAM

LEFT: Mother and daughter team, Sarah and Sophie Francis from Team Xtreme, who have competed in every Mini Burn since 2011!

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales. Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

IT'S the week of the Mini Burn event in Margam Park, which will see over 150 competitors taking on 3km of running, 10km of cycling, 1km of kayaking and a five check point orienteering course.

As expected, the family categories, both the under 10s and over 10s are the largest categories, so it will be fascinating to see family team work at its best.

This event is unique to Wales as no other event exists with this combination of sports where the whole family can be involved.

For those with very young children it provides a perfect day out watching our competitors jump into the kayaks and splashing their way around the lake as well as pulling and pushing each other along the run and bike routes to ensure a good time.

The orienteering phase is often a favourite amongst families as they debate and negotiate the best route. At the end of the day, everyone received a medal and goody bag for their efforts.

If you're free this Saturday, June 28, why not come down to our event centre?

Bring a picnic and watch the action. It might just tempt you for the October event which is a replica of the June event.

*Log onto **www.burnseries.co.uk** for full details.*

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures and a race report from the Mini Burn.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for June 19, 2014 is:

Esther James

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

10 Downing Street

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

Caeffatri Bar & Grill

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/glamorgangem

'Lovely' GEM prize at nursery

A FEW weeks ago, I was lucky enough to win The GEM Facebook competition and I chose to spend my prize at St Mellons Nursery on Barry Island.

I visited the nursery and was extremely pleased with the plants I purchased, which were of a high quality and reasonably priced. The lady and gentleman there were very pleasant and helpful. We then enjoyed lovely coffee at the cafe next door, sitting in the sun looking out over the sea – what a pleasant Saturday morning.

If your readers haven't visited this nursery, it's well worth a visit and it certainly enhances Barry Island, with its lovely display of plants.

Many thanks to The GEM and St Mellons Nursery for my lovely prize!

Barbara Entwistle, Barry.

NEARLY NEW SALE!

THERE will be a sale of nearly new clothes and shoes at the Lesser Hall, All Saints Church, Victoria Square, Penarth, on July 2 from 2pm-3.30pm.

Entry (50p) includes tea or coffee. All proceeds will go to charity.

BEACH CLEAN

'FRIENDS of Barry Beaches' will be holding its next beach clean on Sunday (June 29), meeting at 3pm, adjacent the public toilets at Porthkerry.

All volunteers will be welcome.

Shahi Noor, the recipe for success!

THE Shahi Noor is celebrating 25 years in business at High Street, Barry.

We started advertising in The GEM in 1989 and have placed regular adverts highlighting our menu, special offers and events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers for their continued support and loyalty.

Also, a big thank you to Jan and the sales team at The GEM for their help and creativity with our adverts.

A winning combination of good advertising and loyal customers is helping to make The Shahi Noor a successful business.

Here's to another 25 years!

Mr Rahman and the staff, Shahi Noor, Barry.

PAMPERED AND PERFUMED IN MY SPA HEAVEN!

A special feature by GEM guest columnist CAROLINE SARLL

PICNICS, pies and pests – just some of the things we should all, apparently, be commemorating this month! I do a monthly broadcast with the delightful and marvellously maverick Eleri Sion on Radio Wales, looking at various awareness and celebration days.

This month includes National Picnic Week, National Insect Week and the glorious British Mud Week (hence the pies).

In previous months, we've discussed the merits of National Tooth Fairy Day (whimsy incarnate), National Pig Day (the alternative to St David's Day) and the utterly fabulous Lumpy Rug Day (don't ask).

I have, inadvertently, become Wales' leading, self-proclaimed eventologist and am revelling in my new-found designation. Each day in the Sarll household is a smorgasbord of weird and wacky celebrations. Such fun.

May 16, however, was one of my absolute favourites. In case you had somehow missed this FAD (Fun-filled Awareness Day), it was, in fact, National Massage Day.

At a time when a leading therapist, Gill Tree, is calling for massage to be available nationwide on the NHS – and as someone who enjoys the occasional remedial session, with Porthcawl mobile masseuse and therapist, Vicky Williams, I popped off to two of our leading spa centres in Bridgend and the Vale, to sample the benefits of this time-honoured treatment, practised by the ancient Egyptians as far back as 2330 BC.

First stop was the Vale Resort Spa at Hensol, set in, says the website, '650 acres of private countryside'. Cruising up the sweeping driveway, amongst greenery so verdant and bucolic, I thought I had landed the lead role in Tamara Drewe, I already felt relaxed.

A good start, I mused, to this most arduous of assignments. Taking the plunge (apologies) into this carefree, other-world of no-stress, floatiness and relaxation rooms (the Vale boasts three, including a slumber zone with lanterns and quilts – bliss!), I began with a quick dip in the shimmering, Grecian-style 20 metre pool, which I had virtually to myself.

Mental note: weekday lunchtimes are a good time to visit. A few minutes in the steam room and sauna, where I could feel the previous day's chocolate brownie melting away, then up the spiral stairway to (spa) Heaven.

I was greeted at the reception, by a smiling therapist (one of 40), all crisply clad in white, looking exquisitely clean, buffed and professional, next to my still-dripping, rather bedraggled figure.

She introduced herself as Natalie Davies and showed me to the changing rooms, where I slipped on the ubiquitous white, fluffy robe, then waddled (thick towelling is not exactly catwalk) through a dimly-lit, sweet-smelling maze of corridors towards one of the 19 treatment rooms.

Natalie explained that it was the Sundari room, which is where they carry out the Indian massage treatments. Their Sundari Odati massage was named the Most Marvellous Massage in the UK by the Good Spa Guide in 2012, which also awarded the Spa the deliciously-apt '5 bubble' rating. I knew I was in good hands.

'Sundari' is actually the Bengali word for 'beautiful' – and the room itself lived up to its name. The smell of enticing oils. A plushly covered bed, in rich Eastern colours and a Buddha placed on top.

A Sundari treatment is tailored to an individual's 'dosha' or mind-body condition, of which there are, apparently three types: vata, pitta and kapha. I am apparently a mixture of vata and pitta, which basically means I am a stressed-out, frantic, whippet of a woman, who never sits still. Spot on. Natalie then explained that she was actually going to give me a Swedish full-body massage that day. The name was immaterial.

I succumbed instantly and climbed on to the inviting bed.

Dimmed lighting, a warm blanket to soften my crunchy, knotted bones and the ambience of an Indian temple. Had I had the energy, I would have pinched myself.

Instead, I lay, being firmly massaged and deknotted by Natalie's expert hands (and forearms?), with comforting Clarins oils, while I silently dribbled onto the fluffy, towelling pillow (apologies to laundry staff at the Vale).

Seriously, it really was the most exquisitely relaxing experience and restorative by the bucket load. I did take some mid-massage pics of me (selfies. Gosh, I am so down with the kids), but I really do look quite demented with my oily hair and nose too close to the camera, so decided that an after-pic, fully-clothed, would have to do.

Me with Natalie and me with my other new bezzie, Buddha. I start dribbling again just thinking about it.

Debbie Searle, spa operations manager, was keen to point out the range that the Spa offers: "There are over 50 treatments to choose from, with prices for massages ranging from £33 upwards. There are also many day packages. One of our best offers is the Wednesday and Thursday afternoon package – 'Me Time' and 'Chill 'n'Chocolate' . Both include lunch, a 55 minute aromatherapy massage and afternoon tea and cakes". Mmmm.

Lindsey Gibson, membership advisor at the Vale Health Club, reminds me that this month, they are offering the first month free for family memberships: "The club boasts just under 3,000 members and as well as the vibrant spa facilities and treatments, there is a state-of-the-art gym and 80 plus classes on offer, ranging from Zumba to outdoor fitness, to those who take up membership.

"And, of course, we have our two golf courses. Monthly memberships start at £59". Debbie points out that it is possible to access spa treatments without becoming a member. I, for one, can't wait to return.

A few weeks later, still feeling replenished from the Vale experience, I drove slightly closer to home (for me) to the encouragingly named Tranquility Spa at the Virgin Active Club in Bridgend.

Set in slightly less inviting surroundings, on the edge of Waterton Retail Park, just off the dual carriageway, the club is, nevertheless, extremely inviting once inside, consistent with a smaller venue – a cosy feel.

With an arguably younger 'vibe' than the Vale, the facilities are just as impressive. There is an equally well-equipped gym and up to 70 classes a week, including Bootcamp Circuits, Dance Aerobics, Burn 360 (ouch) and the much-gentler sounding Mature Movers. With an old hip injury, I know which one, if any, I would manage. Thankfully, no classes were on the menu for me for this assignment. Phew.

I had already spoken to my therapist on the phone, a bubbly, chirpy young woman by the very apt name of Shelley Stones (hot stones massage? Perfect!) and she was there to greet me on my arrival, as perky and amiable in the flesh.

A much smaller spa than the Vale, with just three treatment rooms and one spray tan room, the club as a whole nevertheless boasts an equally impressive 2,000 plus members, but it was quiet when I was there - again, just after lunch. This is the time to go, chaps, if you don't work nine to five.

Therapist Natalie Davies (left) with Debbie Searle, spa operations manager.

Shelley, one of three therapists, gave me my robe – just as fluffy! – and I replicated my Vale experience by starting off with a gentle swim. I was the only one in the pool: perfect.

Stopping for breath after a few lengths, I optimistically asked the lifeguard how many lengths I'd need to swim to make a mile. "Sixty four", was the cheery response.

I fell somewhat (*for somewhat*, read drastically) short of that mark, wanting, of course, to leisurely soak up the atmosphere... A few moments in the blissful whirlpool, followed by the muscle-relaxing sauna and I felt ready to be pampered.

Shelley took me into Room 1 (images of Winston Smith in Orwell's 1984, flashed before my eyes – I was glad we weren't on the first floor...), a dimly-lit haven, with gentle wafts of relaxing scents permeating the air. I felt instantly de-stressed. No Buddha this time, but just as welcoming. Shelley asked me to smell two different Espa oils, to find out which one suited my personality and needs. Not surprisingly, I gravitated towards the one which would relax me.

"You can tell by your choice what your body needs" said Shelley authoritatively, "and you are clearly stressed". I lay face down on the betowelled bed (why aren't our own towels ever so fluffy?) and popped my head into the oval hole at the top, resisting the urge to gurn and awaiting my second dose of nirvana. I was not disappointed.

A firm sweep up and down my back and I was instantly in the Land of Dribble. By the time Shelley got to my legs – one of the best leg massages I have ever had, using firm, twisting motions – I had been utterly transported.

This time, I also felt that Shelley was using her full forearm and elbows for part of the back massage, which offered, as in the Vale, a deep – and deeply satisfying – result. The final head massage was so good, I swear I grunted. The same "aah" moment that you get when you bite into a firm chunk of choccy. Heavenly.

Prices for massage treatments start from £23.40 with a 10 per cent reduction for club members. "Club membership" says membership coordinator Rhys Webb, "comes at £49.95 a month for individuals and there is no joining fee. July comes free if you join this month".

Both experiences left me feeling utterly relaxed – blissfully blobby, in fact. For me, an hour's massage is the sensual, therapeutic equivalent of a week's holiday – and clearly a good deal cheaper.

In the wake of National Massage Day, I am fully supportive of the motion being proposed to get massage on the NHS, although there are clearly more pressing issues to be dealt with regarding the NHS in Wales at the moment.

ABOVE: Shelley Stones and Caroline Sarll in the spa.

ABOVE: Shelley Stones, therapist with Virgin team member, John at the club.

As someone with ongoing muscular-skeletal problems (breaking a hip is one of the most serious bones one can break), I know how helpful this type of treatment – carried out by professionals – can be.

The benefits of regular massage are legion: it can help or prevent physical and emotional stress, raise self esteem, help minimise the symptoms of many disorders and assist recovery from treatment and surgery.

I will definitely be booking a few more treatments. All I need now is a free day, when I am not celebrating Be Nice To Nettles Day (honestly), Rubber Eraser Day and, my all-time favourite, Don't Step On A Bee Day (July 10).

Life can, indeed, be very sweet.

www.vale-hotel.com/spa 01443 665888
www.virginactive.co.uk/clubs/bridgend 01656 664160
Caroline's blog: Listenwithmam.blogspot.com

Miss Vale of Glamorgan out to Inspire Vale

Jane Hutt AM with Coun Howard Hamilton and Zoe Hodgkinson.

MISS Vale of Glamorgan, Zoe Hodgkinson met the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Howard Hamilton and Jane Hutt AM in the Barry Memorial Hall at the Inspire Adult Award events.

Afterwards, Ms Hutt said: "Zoe is keen to raise funds for charity and support events across the Vale. A hair stylist and former pupil of Bryn Hafren School, Zoe is enjoying her new role as Miss Vale of Glamorgan."

The Mayor, Mayoress and Coun Elmore with Tenovus staff.

The Tenovus ManVan wins fulsome praise

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Howard Hamilton, and cabinet member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, have praised the Tenovus ManVan for dropping in on Barry Island during Barry Festival of Transport.

The converted 38ft American-style motorhome is travelling to Welsh communities across the country to support men living with, or affected by, prostate and testicular cancer.

The ManVan is designed to bring one-to-one counselling, couples' counselling, group support and welfare rights advice to men who live in deprived or hard-to-reach areas.

The Tenovus ManVan will feature as part of the Penarth Festival in Glebe Street, Penarth on July 19.

Cowbridge Summer Update

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There is no better time to visit the Vale's market town than right now!

THERE is never a bad time to visit Cowbridge, but there is no question that the summer months show off this Vale market town at its very best.

Cowbridge has always been a town which encourages the visitor to wander its nooks and crannies, discovering niche businesses, as well as the many quirky architectural features that illustrate its fascinating history.

In the summer, much of the early season planting that goes on around the town is now in full bloom, and it means that attractive vistas can be found just around any corner.

Similarly, many of the town's pubs, cafes and restaurants have outside areas, so alfresco dining becomes an attractive option – or perhaps simply a relaxing coffee in the open air, watching the world go buy!

Cowbridge is justly proud of its market town traditions. The livestock market still takes place every Tuesday, and that market area is available for free parking for the other six days of the week. In fact, civic pride is much in evidence in the town.

Townsfolk are proud of the mix of shops – from high-end boutiques to stores that sell everyday essentials – and from distinctive items for the home to traders who sell jewellery and arts and crafts.

The town's civic pride is best exemplified by the remarkable transformation that volunteers achieved to create the Physic Garden.

From what was an overgrown abandoned nursery, a fascinating walled garden has been created, featuring plants grown for medicinal purposes.

When the garden was first opened, visitors were warned that, because plants which were introduced to the UK in the 200 years or so would not be grown in the garden, it would have the effect of excluding quite a number of colourful strains.

Well, as the photo on this page, taken this week shows, there is plenty of floral colour there – and elsewhere around the town!

All year round, Cowbridge has much to offer the visitor, and its relaxing atmosphere makes a welcome change from the hustle and bustle of certain alternative shopping centres – and the parking is free.

If you want to head home in a good mood after an enjoyable few hours – rather than gnashing your teeth at the frustrations of big city shopping – then head for Cowbridge.

After all, your general mood and peace of mind may not appear on the bill, but it really matters!

ABOVE: Parts of the Physic Garden in the town are a blaze of colour.
RIGHT: A floral display in the town.

Fun Foundations

THE FUN Foundations Day Nursery are proud to announce that they have been accredited core standard as an Investors in People Organisation.

The nursery team began the process in November 2013, creating a Collaborative Compass together, which included:

• Brand promise (the experience that we will provide);
• Vision (what we aspire to);
• Operational priorities (action we will take in pursuit of the vision);
• Core values (how we will behave in good times and bad times).

Throughout the first year, the team have worked together with the Collaborative Compass embedded in everyday practice, with the goal of providing the best wrap-around childcare in the area.

Following this achievement, Fun Foundations Day Nursery are going to start working towards a silver accreditation, with the assessor's comments in mind: "The achievement is a representation of the true commitment to staff and it is something that the entire team should be proud of!"

The full report is available to read at http://www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk/investors_in_people.html.

www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk
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Tel: 01446 771117 We look forward to seeing you!
Vale Forge, North Road, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7DF

Spirit of Provence arrives at Beagles

International beauty brand L'Occitane has finally arrived in Cowbridge – thanks to Beagles Country Store's owner Claire Donovan.

L'Occitane, which produces products for men and women, is known for providing premium, natural-based bath, body and skincare using traditional production methods.

Claire has just received her first delivery, which includes L'Occitane's Shea Butter Hand Cream (£19) which is an international best-seller with one being sold every three seconds! Beagles is marking the event with a fantastic offer: just bring this article with you to get a whopping 20 per cent reduction off any L'Occitane product bought on the day.

Beagles, which stocks country clothing, accessories and homewares, alongside the L'Occitane products, is continually adding to the range of labels which includes Really Wild Clothing, Avoca, and Holland Cooper.

It has gone from strength to strength in the six months it has been open and is proud to be an independent, Welsh business in the heart of Cowbridge.

Beagles Country Store, Old Mason's Yard, Town Hall Square, Cowbridge; telephone 01446 771995 /www.beaglesofcowbridge.com.

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Cowbridge Summer Update

St Aubin celebrates a top nursery award

THE St Aubin nurseries are "delighted" after being voted the National Day Nurseries Association's Welsh nursery of the year 2014 in Cowbridge.

A spokeswoman said. "Having also won the award in 2012, at the Cowbridge Road nursery in Canton, we were overjoyed that the newest addition to our nursery family has been recognised for the exceptional learning opportunities and fantastic provision they offer.

"The judges were impressed by the child-led approach to learning, the empowerment of the children to make choices and become independent thinkers whilst exploring the many large and inviting spaces open to them, they report.

"St Aubin's'main ethos of the child being at the centre of nursery life, together with over 25 years' experience in childcare, ensures that every one of our children has the very best start in life."

First West Band at 'The Duke'

VALE Church is hosting the 'First West Band' for the third year at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge on July 1 at 7.30pm.

This has been a well attended event and we hope to see you all again.

FWB visit the Bridgend area for a week each year but the Duke has become a favourite venue for them.

You can follow the various events on Facebook at the Bridgend Louisianna Partnership.

We are also pleased to announce that Team Impact will be with them again. Entry to the event is free and the bar will be open.

FWB are first class musicians and probably one of the best bands you will ever hear in Cowbridge. It is a family friendly event, so no need to *book a baby-sitter. For further information contact Alun on 07538 418686*. **AG**

The Bear Hotel

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'Walk a Country Mile' for Prince of Wales' cause

WALKING is as close to 'free' as it gets. You don't need fancy shoes, or clothes, or equipment.

The simple act of taking a walk connects us to landscapes, nature, communities and helps us to reflect and appreciate the importance of the countryside.

During National Countryside Week (July 14 – 20) you can Walk a Country Mile to support and raise funds for The Prince's Countryside Fund, which is supported by Tindle Newspapers, owners of The GEM.

Taking a short walk is not only fun, but will make us mindful of the importance of the countryside, and give pause to consider how we support those who work to conserve it.

National Countryside Week is run by The Prince's Countryside Fund to raise awareness of the importance of the countryside to the UK.

What makes the fund unique is that it doesn't support the environment, buildings or wildlife but the people who manage and maintain the countryside.

The Prince of Wales recognised the crisis facing our rural communities and as a result set up The Prince's Countryside Fund to provide support to the multitude of remarkable organisations and individuals working tirelessly to keep farmers farming and our rural communities alive.

He said: "The British countryside is the unacknowledged backbone of our national identity. It is as precious as any of our great cathedrals and we erode it at our peril."

A spokesman for The Prince's Countryside Fund said: "Walking is simple and easy – you could go for a walk in your local park or visit your nearest national park. You could take a walk around your local village, or head to the hills and explore some of our amazing natural scenery. Ideally, you will get a small group together and download one of our online maps so you can explore your local countryside.

"A country mile can be any distance so if you only make it to the local village pub, or tackle a 12-mile hike, everyone can achieve something."

The Prince's Countryside Fund is addressing a number of issues affecting the countryside by giving grants to organisations and initiatives across the UK to help create and sustain a thriving rural community, from apprentice hill farmer schemes in Cumbria – as many of these skills are in short supply – to supporting community shops; from encouraging pubs to be the hub of their communities, to supporting school farms; from helping women set up in business in rural areas, to supporting Young Farmers' Clubs with training schemes.

In just three and a half years, the fund has given £3.8m to over 90 projects touching the lives of 64,000 people.

• *To register your support for the campaign, and make a suggested £3 donation, please visit www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk.*

Once you have signed up, you will receive an email with maps, ideas, tips and suggestions, plus information on where your donation will go and who is being helped.

Residents warned of council tax 'scam'

VALE of Glamorgan Trading Standards officers are warning residents of a scam involving calls offering to reduce council tax bills.

Callers claim to be able to do this as the house may be in the wrong band. They also say refunds can be claimed for previous overpayments.

They request payment details to process a £50 upfront fee to open the file, but the council warns: "Residents should be aware that if their property is in the wrong band it can be corrected, free of charge, by contacting the Valuation Office on 03000 505505.

" In addition, some of the properties involved were in the lowest priced band 'A' and could not possibly have bills reduced.

"It is not clear whether any reduction is ever obtained for residents, but the scammers are then in possession of important bank or credit card details."

Principal Trading Standards Officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey commented: "Vale residents are urged to refrain from offering important data such as bank details to anyone, unless they are completely sure that it is safe to do so.

"If you are in any doubt or you require information relating to your council tax account, you are advised to contact the Vale of Glamorgan Council Tax Section on 01446 700111."

Residents who have already given their account details over the phone are advised to contact their banks as soon as possible.

If you believe you've received a similar call, report it to Citizens' Advice, on 08454 04 05 06. This information is immediately sent to the council's Trading Standards service.

Local Foodbank volunteers praised

Coun Chris Franks (left) Chair of Dinas Powys Community Council, with Mike Groves of the Vale Foodbank, and helpers.

BETHESDA Chapel is the base for the local Food Bank in Dinas Powys and has a team of dedicated workers quietly sorting out the donations of food provided by residents.

Coun Chris Franks, Chair of Dinas Powys Community Council, visited the centre to thank the volunteers for all their hard work.

He met Mr Mike Groves the local co-ordinator, who explained how the organisation needed to collect, sort and distribute the supplies of food.

Each foodbox contains a minimum of three days' nutritionally balanced non perishable food. A typical box would contain long life milk, sugar, fruit juice, pasta sauce, soup, tins, rice puddings and cereals.

Foodbanks in the Vale have seen a huge growth in need for their services in recent times. A new centre opened in Holton Road, in addition to the main base in the Colcot area of the town.

Coun Franks said: "Thanks to the wonderful work of foodbanks the hungry can be fed. There is no government financial support for these schemes; they rely on the generosity of the public.

"The scheme was created by the Trussell Trust and the number of centres has risen dramatically over the years. There are to be food collections at main Tesco supermarkets on July 4, 5, 6, in Barry and Penarth from 9am to 5pm."

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE / *in brief*

Tea party

CADOXTON Youth Project will host a 'Blooming Great Tea Party' in aid of Marie Curie, at Cadoxton Royal Gardens at the top of Main Street on June 26 – 27 (2pm – 5pm).

All are welcome; activities for all the family.

Nearly new

NEARLY New Sale of baby, toddler, child and maternity items, this Saturday (June 28) at Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry. Free entry. Refreshments and homemade cakes also on sale.

Supporting Barry Milk Mates.

Valeways guided walks

ON Tuesday, July 1, Hoffi Coffi meet at Coffee Cove Cafe on Barry Island at 10am. On July 2, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry at 10.30am. July 5, for the Llanblethian History Trail meet in The Cross Inn, Llanblethian, at 4pm.

Beach clean

'FRIENDS of Barry Beaches' will be holding its next beach clean this Sunday, June 29, meeting at 3pm adjacent the public toilets at Porthkerry.

All volunteers will be welcome.

Council backs anti-violence white ribbon

THE Vale Council has pledged support for the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC), which aims to eradicate violence towards women.

With partners Atal y Fro and the Probation Trust, the council has led successful projects, including the One Stop Shop at Cadoxton House and the Sanctuary Referral Scheme.

It has now applied for the White Ribbon Campaign Award, presented to organisations that demonstrate commitment to the campaign by addressing social norms that lead to violent behaviour, increasing awareness, and providing services aimed at reducing incidents of domestic violence.

Within the Vale of Glamorgan there are 1,874 reports made each year by victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

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Vale blooms in the sun as spotlight turns on twinning, partnership, and a pledge

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the **Vale of Glamorgan Council**

THESE last few months have been very different with the gloomy winter and the severe storms and now with the sunny weather; let's hope the warm weather continues through the school holidays and the youngsters can have a good summer break.

Thinking of enjoying oneself particularly at the seaside, I am pleased to see that the sand is returning to the beaches, especially Barry Island.

I was, therefore, disappointed to see the comments about our coastline losing the sand permanently. It was surprising, as there was recently a very good presentation at the Economy and Environment Committee where it was explained that the movement of sand in the channel is cyclic and that it would return.

The argument that dredging in the channel was having an effect was also discussed, but as I understand it, dredging ceased at the end of April – so that should not be an influencing factor – although many argue it was not an influencing factor in the first place.

This good weather showcases the beauty of the Vale and I am pleased that it is remaining pleasant, because this week we have some young people from our twin towns of Mouscron in Belgium and Fecamp in France attending a summer school at St Donats along with young people from the Vale of Glamorgan.

They have had a busy schedule and have been carrying out all sorts of activities and I hope that many new friends have been made and the young people have learned a little bit more about their respective cultures in a very special environment.

That is what twinning is about and I hope we can continue to foster relationships with the young people from Europe.

This year has also seen the Vale of Glamorgan Council continuing its collaboration with Barry Town Council and I am pleased to report that the mobile library service that has been established between us has had a very good start and been extremely successful.

I hope that this will go from strength-to-strength and encourage more collaboration with other town and community councils.

Our partnership work continues with Barry Town Council, along with the Fields in Trust and Royal British Legion, in putting together a joint venture to create a community garden with meaning at Cemetery Approach, which will provide areas for play as well as quiet reflection and turn it into a Centenary Community Garden. It is proposed to dedicate the redeveloped land as a Centenary Field, which aims to dedicate a recreational space in commemoration of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War One and other conflicts too.

Both councils are keen to move forward with the project and are seeking additional funding via the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant scheme to create a relaxing and pleasant space for local people, as well as visitors to the cemetery.

On the theme of collaboration, we are also very close to having a joint service with both Cardiff and Bridgend Councils on providing a regionalised regulatory service for environmental health, trading standards and licensing.

This will provide a single service across the three councils with a single management structure and I believe it will be a very reliable resilient service and will pave the way to strengthening this important local government public protection service.

I am also very pleased to confirm that after many months of discussions between myself, cabinet member Coun Gwyn John and officers, we have agreed to look at a feasibility study into installing a 3G-pitch at Jenner Park.

Now that the clubhouse is in council control, we can consider developing the site comprehensively, including adding parking provision.

We expect to make a final decision this year, but in the meantime, we have agreed to issue a temporary licence for Barry Town United to use the clubhouse ahead of their pre-season friendly match against Cardiff City, as well as their wildcard fixture in the FAW Word Cup against old rivals Merthyr Town.

We hope that these matches will be a success and look forward to our continuing partnership working with Barry Town United.

Finally, I would like to close by informing you that the Vale of Glamorgan cabinet is continuing its pledge to go out and about in the community, and is holding a full cabinet meeting, followed by a public question and answer session at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School on Monday, June 30 from 6pm to 8pm. I expect quite a turnout and look forward to having discussions about many topics. No doubt our ambitious educational plans to develop a new Llantwit Learning Community with new schools and better facilities will be high on the list. I look forward to seeing you there.

NEARLY NEW SALE!

THERE will be a sale of nearly new clothes and shoes at the Lesser Hall, All Saints Church, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Wednesday, July 2 from 2pm-3.30pm.

Entry (50p) includes tea or coffee. All proceeds will go to charity.

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ABOVE: Demon Barbers – Brett Stacey, Steve Jones and Daniel James.

GREAT shopping areas create excitement, provide unrivalled services and attract new businesses.

Step forward Park Crescent and St Nicholas Road, Barry!

Anyone who passes along these popular thoroughfares knows they have a constant buzz.

No wonder Teresa Pereira decided to start her new venture on St Nicholas Road, catering for the local brides-to-be. Tulip Bridal Wear and Photo Studio has opened at the premises once occupied by The Grapevine.

Teresa said: "We've carried out a complete refit and have a great selection of bridal designer dresses, wedding accessories and jewellery.

"We cater for every sort of bride – from those who are having a traditional wedding to the exotic beach wedding."

Tulip Bridal Wear and Photo Studio has a free car park right next to the showroom.

Teresa explained: "We make brides, their mums and family members very welcome. We cater for all their needs in a relaxed, calm environment.

"We're here to make their big day special."

Clients don't have to have an appointment; they are welcome to just pop in for a browse and a chat. Tulip is open from Tuesday to Saturdays, but will even open for a special appointment on Sunday or Monday if the midweek is inconvenient for a bride.

The shop opened on April 5 and to celebrate its first year in business is holding a raffle for all those who have bought a wedding dress: the winner will enjoy a week at a villa in the Algarve – the draw to be made in December.

The photo studio is a convenient location for a family or individual portrait.

At Tulip Bridal Wear and Photo Studio brides-to-be can relax in a friendly environment and select the wedding dress of their dreams.

ANNIVERSARY

One entrepreneur who is glad she made the move to Park Crescent is Holly Bennett – her beauty boutique venture BLush celebrated its first anniversary on May 4.

Holly told The GEM: "The first year has been really good – even better than I expected.

"Over the last 13 months we've established a wide and varied customer base."

That's hardly surprising when you see the wide and varied services and treatments on offer for both sexes: waxing, male grooming, lash and brows, make up sessions, spray tanning, nails – all backed up by top brands and qualified professionals.

Clients can make an appointment, call in, or get in touch by text or Facebook.

Holly and the staff at BLush also do late nights until 7.30pm on Thursday and Friday.

ABOVE: Holly Bennett and Zoe O'Brien of beauty clinic BLush provide a huge range of treatments and services.

ABOVE: Florantina Florists delivers in Barry and as far afield as St Athan, Culverhouse Cross and Penarth.

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My Favourite Pet and Sleek & Chic provide great services for pet lovers.

CARE 4 PETS, My Favourite Pet and Sleek and Chic are run by Alison Moya and deal with all your pet needs.

Alison said: "We have celebrated five years, and started with the agency which provides 'home boarding' for dogs, so they don't have to go to kennels, which can be stressful. Instead, they can go to a carer's home.

"We also provide dog walking, house visiting for smaller animals, or homes with multiple pets – everyone is CRB checked."

Alison's well-stocked store My Favourite Pet, is open from Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm, and on Wednesday there is a half day from 9am to 1pm. It has a great range of dog, cat and pet accessories, including toys.

It also has a range of specialist dog foods – Royal Canin, Burns, fish4dogs, Barking Heads, James Welbeloved and Nature's: menu – the sorts of brands you can't always get in the supermarkets.

The store also supplies other animal foods, including bird seeds.

Alison moved dog grooming next door to 'Sleek & Chic' creating a state-of-the-art facility (and making her pet store that bit bigger).

"The salon is light, airy and air-conditioned – the dogs find it enjoyable. We have six professional groomers. Cuts for small dogs start at £18, but it depends on the size – a cocker spaniel would be £30," said Alison.

Those niche businesses you just can't do without!

ONE great feature of Park Crescent is its 'niche businesses', which provide essential services we can't do without.

Barry Security Centre and Locksmiths moved to Park Crescent from the centre of the town in 2008 and hasn't looked back.

Matt Cullen said: "We used to be alongside the Theatre Royal, but were forced out. In the long term, it has worked for us. We deal in domestic and commercial alarms.

"I do free estimates at which I can assess a customer's needs."

Matt travels as far afield as the rural Vale, Cardiff, Cowbridge and St Athan. He's even got a 10 per cent discount running on domestic alarm installations.

DEMON BARBERS

A couple of doors away is Demon Barbers, run by Steve Jones and his team.

Steve said: "We are a gents' hairdressers and are open from Monday to Saturday, closing at 5pm in the week and 4.30pm on Saturdays."

Sue Davies of 'Cutting it by Sue', has just had a refurbishment.

Sue has 11 years of haidresssing experience on Park Crescent – people like the friendly atmosphere that she and Charlotte provide.

Sarah's Fresh Fruit & Veg has all the essentials for everyday life – fruit and veg (of course!) bread, milk, tinned food, cereals, toilet rolls, biscuits, sweets, crisps, drinks – in fact everything you might need in a hurry if you live near Park Crescent, or are passing through.

FLORANTINA

One specialist business now in its third generation is Florantina Florists, owned by the Kellaway family.

Jonthan explained: "We have completed 25 years and are heading for 26 years. It was started by my parents Janet and Dennis, and my son Owain is involved now."

Florantina specialises in sympathy tributes, and bouquets – whether for birthdays, anniversaries or celebrations. The shop is a dazzling array of colour.

What is the secret of its 25-year success?

"Quality is the key. Cheap doesn't work," insisted Jonathan. "Quality lasts and people come back. What is the point in getting a £25 arrangement that lasts two or three days when one for £30 will get you an extra seven days?

"Another thing we are keen to do is provide more unusual flowers.

Jonathan does same day delivery and if someone wants to pick up a bouquet, he can have it ready in an hour.

A friendly service is guaranteed by Sue Curtis and Charlotte Davies of 'Cutting it by Sue'.

Matt Cullen of Barry Security Centre & Locksmiths, is located on Park Crescent and just a call away.

Warm welcome at The Park Hotel

THE Park Hotel on Park Crescent is a great community pub which is well worth a visit.

Ben, the manager, told The GEM: "We've got a lot of friendly regulars who welcome newcomers.

"The pub's popularity speaks for itself – it is always full on international match days and band nights.

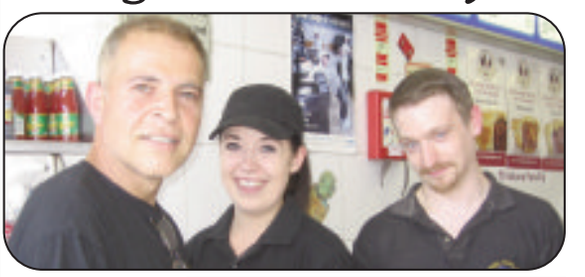
"The function room is one of the best in Barry with its own bar and great views.

"Our customers range from the elderly to couples enjoying a night out and sports enthusiasts. There are large TV screens in every room."

You can follow The Park on Facebook and Twitter for regular band night dates.

Barbara and Brian Allcock, Park regulars.

Treat yourself to a great takeaway



***ABOVE:** Mario and the staff at Irene's Supper Bar serve a wide range of fish – along with chicken, sausages and pies, too.*

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NEW WORK AT LOCAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

A NEW project by Beyond the Border, Wales' international storytelling festival will be unveiled during the festival in St Donats next month.

'Peredur Rides Again' features Welsh storyteller Michael Harvey, leading contemporary French storyteller Marien Tillet, and French jazz saxophonist Alexandra Grimal, who counts the National Jazz Orchestra of France among her bands.

A festival spokesman said: "The show will be directed by Abbi Patrix and will take storytelling into places it has not been before".

Peredur is the Welsh translation of Perceval – one of the knights of the round table, who features in the Holy Grail stories.

Michael Harvey said:"It's great to be working with some great performers on a challenging and exciting new project.

"Each day, the story takes on a new feeling. I can't wait to bring it over to Beyond the Border."

There will be a 'work in progress' performance at the festival before heading for La Maison du Conte in Paris later in the year and further touring around Europe in 2015.

Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival runs from July 4 to 6 at St Donat's Castle and grounds.

The three-day festival of stories and music from Wales and across the world celebrates its 21st birthday this year with a feast of international storytelling, poetry, music, singing, theatre, circus, puppets, films and much more.

See www.beyondtheborder.com for more information.

A happy birthday to brave Beth!

THE supporters, friends and family of Beth Margetson, of Porthcawl, would like to wish her a very happy 50th birthday this coming Saturday and send her heartfelt good wishes for better health and good luck for the coming year.

Caroline Sarll said: "Beth, who has been battling metastatic breast cancer, as well as fighting for her treatment, never thought she would reach this milestone, so it will be a poignant occasion, with much cause for celebration.

"It goes without saying that everyone wishes Beth's forthcoming trip to Germany, to undergo hyperthermia treatment in Hanover, will bring her the results she – and we – are all hoping for and put her into remission," she added.

***GEM note**: Caroline Sarll will be travelling to Germany to support Beth and will be writing a full report on her return.*

LIFT support

THE Life Is For Today (LIFT) self help group meets in Cowbridge once a fortnight on Wednesdays, to offer support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer.

Meetings are usually between 10am and 1pm, or sometimes between 2pm and 4pm, for special activities or visiting speakers.

The next meetings are on July 2 in the morning, for a chat and relaxation therapies if required; July 16 in the afternoon; and July 30 for a garden party (before the summer break in August).

For more information, call Anne on 01446 772843, or Jan (01446 774575). New members are always welcome.

Birthday Notice

HOW OLD??

Sue Baker

"Still looking good!"

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Vale man gets a 19-month jail sentence

A MAN from Barry has been sentenced to 19 months in prison for a catalogue of offences.

In a joint investigation conducted by Trading Standards and South Wales Police, John Farrugia, aged 34, from Clos Llawhaden in Barry, pleaded guilty to offences dating back over 17 months.

The offences ranged from possession with the intent to supply a controlled class B drug, through to infringement of copyright.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake said: "This investigation was a culmination of hard work between officers from South Wales Police and Trading Standards".

He added: "This conviction shows that anyone committing these offences can expect to be investigated and brought before the courts".

MP teams up with McDonalds

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns and McDonalds on Cardiff Road, Barry, are combining to provide a surgery for local constituents.

Mr Cairns is holding the advice surgery at McDonalds on Saturday, July 5, between 10am and 11.30am.

He explained: "I hold regular surgeries across Barry and the Vale and am keen to be available to those who don't usually think of approaching their MP for help.

"I already hold surgeries in supermarkets and libraries, but thought that McDonalds would be an innovation.

"I am keen to continue to try new initiatives."

He added: "I hope people will feel free to pop along for a chat with any issue, or just to let me know their views on the things that matter to them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE management committee of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, is holding a fundraising bingo afternoon this Saturday (June 28) at 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Reading group

MEETINGS of the Barry Shared Reading Group will recommence after a short break tomorrow (June 27) at 12.30pm in the Community Room, at Barry Library.

Song and Laughter

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening of Song and Laughter with Ricky & Azi-G Garret on Friday, July 11 at 7pm. Admission is £5 and includes refreshments. For tickets, call Mair on 01656 722115.

Piloxing and Zumba Gold take place in the hall on the following days: Wednesday – Zumba Gold (1pm); Piloxing (6.30pm).

There is also a new Saturday class of Kangoo Jumps that has to be booked and people should email *tammika@zumbasouthwales.com* to book their place before attending.

Garden party

THE Ogmore Valley Ladies Society are holding their annual garden party at Factory House, Blackmill, the home of Clive and Lydia Davies on July 15, at 12 noon.

Enjoy a walk around the grounds, followed by cream tea on the lawn (weather permitting). Home-made fayre, seasonal crafts, bric-a-brac, raffles.

All proceeds will go to benefit local Valley organisations. This annual event raises in excess of £1,000.

MICHAELA'S BHF AWARD

AN article in last week's GEM accurately reported that Michaela Grey, a BHF volunteer in Bridgend, had won an award as Volunteer of the Year.

Unfortunately, a different name inadvertently appeared in the headline. The GEM would like to apologise if anyone was confused by this.

Out and About with The GEM

Film looks at the rise and fall of The Four Seasons

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

STAGE musicals making their way to the big screen are nothing new; from Catherine Zeta-Jones winning an Oscar for *Chicago*, Hugh Jackman hitting out at revolutionary France in *Les Miserables*, and Pierce Brosnan proving God loves a trier in *Mamma Mia*, there have been plenty gracing cinemas.

The latest of these has the added allure of being directed by Clint Eastwood – *Jersey Boys*. It tells the story of the rise of four young men from the wrong part of town (played by John Lloyd Young, Erich Bergen, Vincent Piazza and Michael Lomenda) who become Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, and how their upbringing brings them closer together as their fame increases, and then tears them apart...

Some musicals weave songs into the narrative as a way of expressing characters' thoughts and motivations, but *Jersey Boys* takes a different path. This telling of the rise, fall and reunion of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons interjects their music organically into proceedings, whether it be a recording session or live performance, which gives it a more straightforward feel, less like a musical and more like a dramatic recounting of events with songs thrown in.

Cinematically, it's a concept that works – particularly given that it's based on true events – so the hullabaloo that Clint Eastwood would be directing a musical is something of a fallacy; instead he brings a stylish sheen and cinematic sensibility to what proves to be an entertaining, if slightly undercooked and cursory, look at one of the 1960s' most impressive acts.

Its narrative form is not unlike your traditional cautionary story of the rise and fall of a group of individuals who seemed to have it all, only for egos and success to get in the way. The film doesn't deviate from this path to any great deal, and as such feels like an overview of the band and the individuals within, rather than digging deep into their history. Unsurprisingly, given his producer's credit, Valli comes out of it the best, an honest, honourable man trying to do his best but struggling against the power of the band and his home life.

The rest of the characters aren't quite given the 'warts 'n all' treatment, as the film never really delves too deeply, but they don't come out of it as sweetly as the singer.

The performances can't help but feel somewhat stagey (especially as the main four were all in the stage show), but they aren't too bad.

John Lloyd Young lacks charisma, but has a tremendous voice, Michael Lomenda and Erich Bergen do a decent job with their roles, while Vincent Piazza shines the brightest as the money-haemorrhaging Tommy, the actor having perhaps the showiest role.

Christopher Walken's small role as a man the band can turn to when things get slightly treacherous is notable only for how much Walken is simply playing himself, but he adds levity when required.

This film is probably the biggest anomaly yet on Clint Eastwood's directorial CV, yet the veteran director, a man not known, on the surface, for his love of Broadway musicals, offers a film that looks visually stylish (the slightly hazy visual period feel riffing on his work with *Changeling*) and coasts along with easy-going charm.

He also transposes the film's stage roots by giving the film a sense of scope (keep an eye for the end credit sequence which is a wonderful blend of stage and screen) and while it doesn't touch his best work it's nothing to be sniffed at.

What is lacking is any real substance; the story is intriguing and interesting (who knew how important Joe Pesci was to the formative group, for example) but feels a little sanitised, a story being filtered by the man who is key to it, while there are several moments that may test some people's tolerance of schmaltz. But as a diverting piece of entertainment, with some great songs and a casual feel, these Jersey Boys deliver a hit.

VERDICT – A change of pace for Clint Eastwood, *Jersey Boys* is an entertaining film, with the songs of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons front and centre. The performances are decent, the direction is stylish, and while it lacks depth and substance, it still makes for a pleasing viewing experience. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Mamma Mia!* (2008), *Moulin Rouge!* (2001).

Barry Island Weekenders

BARRY ISLAND Weekenders festival is returning to the Vale in July and August – with the Welsh International Open Beach Volleyball Championships opening the show on July 5-6.

The weekender will include an Olympic size centre court with a public seating area on the sand.

The Isle of Fire will be returningwith their evening shows on July 19-20 at 9pm, where the audience will walk through a path of flames encountering fire-breathing flowers, scorching sculptures and entrancing trees!

The Street Theatre Weekender will feature on August 2-3, with performances starting at noon and lasting throughout the afternoon, and on August 23-24, the Cinema by the Sea Weekender will be showing *The Goonies* and Abba musical *Mamma Mia* from 8.30pm each night. All events are completely free.

Families sought for TV series

MAKERS of the upcoming BBC 'Family Season' are looking for families of all shapes and size for a series looking at how the modern Welsh family lives.

Using two families, production company Wales & Co hope to repeat the successful 'Family Life Swap' formula and get the teenage kids of one Welsh family to swap lives with the teenage kids of another family for a whole week at the end of July, a spokesman said.

If interested in taking part, email enquiries@walesandco.com or call 02920 225588. For more information, visit www.walesandco.com or http://tinyurl.com/familylifeswap.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £25
to spend with any GEM advertiser this week.
Competition running every week during 2014.

Simply answer the question posted on Facebook each week.

You will find the answer in that week's GEM which is available online and in print every Thursday.

Inbox us your answer and contact details. Competition closes at 5pm every Monday.

Every week a winner is chosen at random and will have £25 to spend with any advertiser in that week's GEM!

Like us on facebook: facebook.com/glamorgangem

Cowbridge musician receives nomination for British Blues Award

Mark Pontin.

COWBRIDGE musician Mark Pontin's band has become the first ever Welsh band to be nominated at the prestigious 'British Blues Awards' for 2014.

Mark, with his band 'Mark Pontin Group' received two nominations, in the 'Emerging Artist' and 'Blues Song' categories.

"I am delighted to have been nominated, especially as I was chosen by a panel of radio DJs and reviewers who liked my album enough to nominate me, it's a huge honour," said Mark.

Releasing his album 'Days Of Destiny' in 2013 independently of any record label or management, the bluesman now needs public votes to secure the top awards.

"It's an online public vote that decides the winners, so I am appealing for all the help I can get, as I am up against acts with major label backing and large fan bases.

"All that is needed is five minutes to fill out an online form, and an email address for confirmation, which is not used for any other purpose," added the former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil.

"Just go to www.britishbluesawards.com/vote to register your vote, or follow the link from my website www.markpontingroup.com," he urged.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D832.

- **£2,000:** 729685.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 681735, 611830, 866367, 694974, 295118, 713233, 190194, 843475, 938309, 287318, 899972, 315109, 266042, 769795, 663035, 835206, 826338, 834586, 714162, 911.
- **£5:** 366711, 498686, 326006, 964810, 613501, 362251, 231270, 333330, 305519, 933895, 618781, 863549, 624593, 106139, 627005, 333361, 862228, 828702, 721443, 734788, 435056, 370403, 256158, 494688, 761806, 644365, 674523, 221558, 187792, 688192, 210812, 677100, 688037, 703661, 438993, 438385, 906483, 715608, 689590, 795233, 833644, 444609, 762912, 864273, 522104, 707732, 799884, 666513, 232280, 215344, 589215, 623978, 656320, 384819, 877805, 899923, 151250, 872756, 218581, 313.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

GARDEN SCHEME

THE gardens opening for the National Gardens Scheme over the weekend of July 5-6 include:

Bryn-y-Ddafad, Welsh St Donats, Cowbridge, Glamorgan (CF71 7ST0.

It is a small courtyard garden with raised beds informally planted using pastel shades of annuals, perennials and small shrubs.

The terraced rear garden has colourful raised beds and borders, mature trees and shrubs.

There is a lily pond with water feature.

Recently constructed and planted pergola of roses leads to a bridge crossing the natural stream. There is a new bog garden and small bank of rhododendrons and azalea.

It is open on Sunday, July 6, (11am-5pm), admission £4.

Widen Your Horizons!

InterStudies are looking for caring host families for cultural exchange students aged 14-19 years who will be attending a local school in your area.

Interested? Please call Kay: 07737649509

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CELINE DION TRIBUTE Ticket Only £2.00

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ADAM MARKS

Saturday 12th July
RUBY WILSON

Saturday 19th July
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SUNDAY LUNCH £3.99

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BEAR BAKE-OFF IS A FUNDRAISING SUCCESS FOR VELINDRE HOSPITAL

The best in show was Nic Osgood, pictured above flanked by Kath Mepham and Kylie McKee (right).

PHOTOGRAPHS KINDLY PROVIDED BY
ALS PHOTOGRAPHY
www.alsphotography.co.uk

Victoria Hibbert (left) with Kylie McKee.

THERE was a fine turnout last week for the Bear Hotel's charity Bake-Off in aid of Velindre Hospital.

The three judges, Kath Mepham of the WI, Kylie McKee from Velindre, and Caroline Attya from The GEM, had a difficult time choosing the prize-winners from some expertly baked cakes!

The three categories were 'Victoria Sandwich', Cup Cakes and 'Loaf cake'.

Kylie McKee, deputy head of fundraising for Velindre, said: "I was delighted to be invited to the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge to be a judge in their 'Bake Off' for Velindre; not only as I got to sample delicious cakes, but also to meet Clare and her team, who had so kindly organised the event – and some of the bakers themselves, who had gone to so much effort to support Velindre.

"The quality of the cakes was superb and so much effort had gone into each and every one, and vital funds were raised which will benefit cancer patients and their families in Velindre."

Caroline Attya of The GEM said: "I can't think of a better way to spend a morning.

"I was judging the Victoria Sandwich entries, and I thought Victoria Hibbert's beautiful home-made jam was the deciding factor.

"What an appropriate Christian name she has!"

The results were as follows:

Best in show – Lemon Drizzle Loaf Cake - Nic Osgood. Prize – £100 gift voucher for Town and Country Hotels

Best Loaf Cake – Orange Bara Brith – Victoria Davies. Prize – Cut and Finish by Spirit Hair Salon.

Best three decorated cup cakes – Elliot Price-Clee, Salted Caramel Cakes. Prize – A round of golf for two at Cottrell Park

Best Victoria Sandwich – Victoria Hibbert. Prize – family day out at Park Dean, Trecco Bay Holiday Park.

The event was supported by The Glamorgan GEM, the WI, Crystal Print & Design, ALS Photography, Park Dean Trecco Bay, Cottrell Park.

All photographs by ALS Photography of Llantwit major (www.alsphotography.co.uk).

Ready, steady, go – it's time for everyone to and have a great time at Llantwit fayre!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

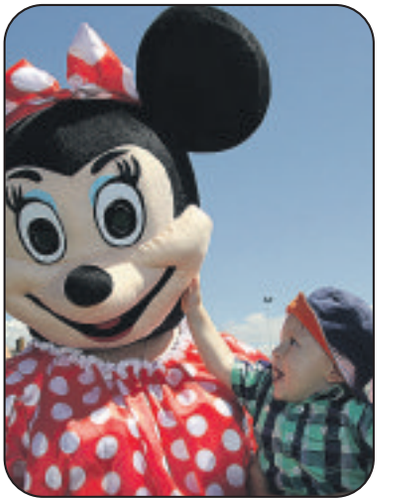
Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

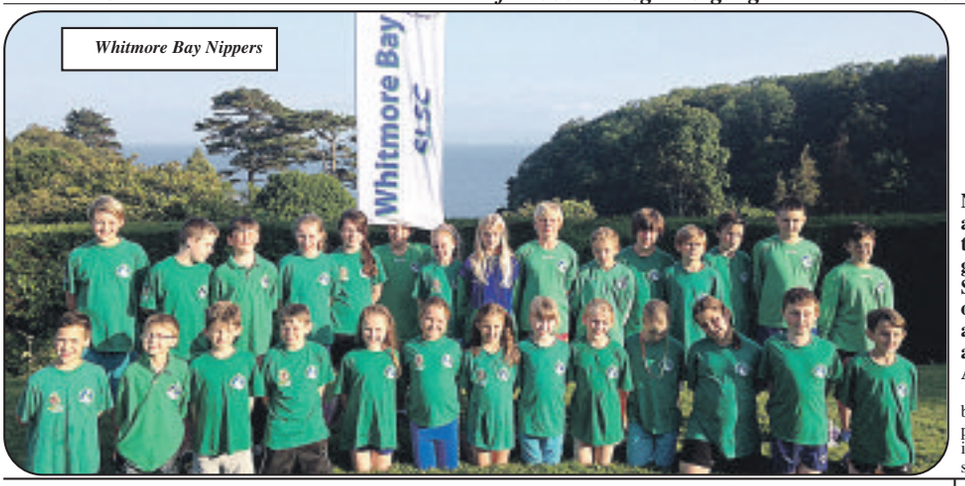
E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

LLANTWIT MAJOR Fayre proved a wonderful day out for all ages on Saturday, June 21.

The variety of sports, entertainments, and stands was truly bewildering.

Here, photographer Glyn Evans captures some of the activities and the people who were keen to get involved.





Whitmore Bay Nippers

Whitmore Bay nippers' weekend to remember!

NIPPERS from Whitmore Bay are celebrating a successful training camp which saw a group of 27 from the Surf Life Saving Club join over 250 other nippers from clubs all across south Wales at the annual Nipper Camp in Atlantic College, St Donats.

They learned important aspects of beach and pool water safety, first aid, paddle board rescue, fitness tests including bleep tests with very high standards met in all disciplines.

The nightly discos were enjoyed by all and it was a great opportunity to meet and mix with other clubs.

It was a glorious setting for what was a weekend full of activities and fun and will prepare the nippers for our up and coming carnival at Whitmore Bay on July 20.

A big thank you goes to all the organisers at south Wales SLSA, the coaches who did an amazing job of looking after the nippers, and (of course) the nippers who were a credit to the club.

Jonathan Davies, Club Secretary.

Lavernock church flower festival is a huge success

One of the exhibits at the flower festival.

THE St Lawrence Church certainly created a stir last weekend with a wonderful array of flowers and memorabilia thoughtfully arranged to create a poignant and evocative scene.

There were several focus points entitled Remember, Respect and Give Thanks.

Rev Margaret Stark was overwhelmed by the response from all ages, and sent a "heartfelt thank you" on behalf of the church's trustees, to all who visited and gave so generously towards the upkeep of the church: "It truly was an unforgettable weekend".

Special thanks go to the following for their contribution to the display: Mr Higley, Lily Pad Flower School and Craft Centre, Peter Davies of Crow Valley Militaria, Pat and Michael Lawrence, Marion Avon, The Royal British Legion (Penarth), Hi-Plan Copyprint and Café Des Amis, and, of course, the St Lawrence Working Party. The Patronal Festival is on August 10.

Sully lady bowlers represent Wales

PICTURED: From left, Barbara Stanton, Stef Parker, Margaret Matthews and Yvonne Lloyd, who were runners up in the British Isles Senior Fours, gaining a silver medal.

FOUR ladies from BP Bowls Club in Sully recently travelled to Jersey with the rest of the British Isles team to represent Wales in the British Isles series, having won the Welsh National Championships (senior rinks) last year to earn their place.

The team were Margaret Matthews, Stefanie Parker, Barbara Stanton and Yvonne Lloyd.

A club spokeswoman said: "We are incredibly proud of this achievement and it is a great honour to wear our Welsh shirts and fly the flag."

Success in parking dispute

AFTER reading the 'Pensioner Won't Pay'article in The GEM, I would like to inform you that I had a similar fine while parked at Cardiff Bay on December 18, 2012 and on January 8, 2013 received the Parking Tariff Notice (fine) in the post, which I refused to pay.

The car park was monitored by New Generation Parking Management Ltd.

I had been shopping with my wife and was parking in a disabled bay (I admit I failed to display my wife's disabled badge by mistake). When I received the fine, I contacted the park operators and questioned the details of the fine.

I wrote to the car park operators stating that:

• There was no parking infringement notice placed onto the window of my vehicle at the time stated;

• The parking company have failed to provide me with a photo of my vehicle parked on their monitored parking area with a parking infringement notice displayed on the windscreen of the vehicle;

• They have failed to prove that I was parked on their monitored land.

• The vehicle excise licence clearly states that the vehicle is a registered disabled vehicle, which they clearly failed to take into account.

I never heard anything back from New Generation Parking Management Ltd, and I still have their original parking tariff notice just in case!

Keith Brown, Barry.

DEDICATED LOCAL NURSE JANE ENJOYS MAKEOVER!

ABOVE: Jane's 60-minute transformation.

JANE HARRISON was the second lovely lady chosen for the 60-minute makeover through The GEM Competition page. She was nominated by her mother as she is an exceptionally hard working operating room nurse, who gives most of her time to her job and has had little time for socialising.

Her mum was hoping a new look would get her noticed by some lucky gentleman and out on some dates! We decided that a much shorter more manageable cut would allow her more freedom with work and still be a hot party look for a much needed night out.

We introduced an all-over bright copper and some deeper copper tones in the nape area and interspersed with some multi-tone foil slices throughout.

Our make-up artists decided to complement her complexion with a light natural finish using La Biosthetique make-up and vibrant lipstick to finish the look.

Look out for our next 60-minute makeover!

Fitch + Ramous

AM PRAISES RAF LINKS WITH VALE

Jane Hutt AM at the RAF stall at the Llantwit and Cowbridge Lions Fayre.

TO mark Armed Forces Week, RAF personnel from MoD St Athan paraded through Barry on June 23, to commemorate 75 years of the Royal Air Force in south Wales.

On Saturday (June 21) the Vale AM attended the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions summer fair and chatted to staff at the RAF stall.

Jane Jutt AM congratulated the RAF based at St Athan, on their long association with the Vale. They were granted the freedom of Barry in May 1959 and made Honorary Freemen of the Vale in 1974.

GREAT WEEKEND... but not for fishing!

THE excellent weather has been great for rays, but sadly, only those from the sun! The Seaview Lads had three competitions fished over last weekend with two being held in sunny Bournemouth, where anglers avoided the 50,000 sunworshippers on the beaches to find a quieter spot to fish.

A spokesman said: "Bright sun, gin-clear water and awkward tide times that clashed with opening hours, meant catches were low but some nice black bream and other species such as weavers and smelt that are not common in local waters made the weekend a little more interesting.

"The weekend will be remembered as much for the many led walks and hikes arranged by Paul Crook, as for the fishing! His urge to romp extended to a ten-mile tour of the 'spoons across Dorset after the rods were hung up – all in pursuit of a cheap ale!

"Bin and Stringfellow both weighed in bream of 1lb 12oz (Stringfellow had an identical brace) which along with some smaller bream, mackerel and wrasse, ensured that anglers at least had fish to weigh in over both comps.

"This was more than could be said for the competition fished on home grounds, where no fish deemed it worthy to be caught!

String managed top place on both days. All in all, a great weekend, albeit not for fishing!"

EU-US deal is threat to principle of democracy

IT'S a basic principle of democracy that governments should be able to make decisions in the interests of the people who elected them. But the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) being negotiated between the US and the EU puts this principle under serious threat.

This trade deal aims to set up a secretive 'court' in which multinational companies can sue governments if they think a law might harm their profits.

For example, a tobacco company is currently using a similar court to sue the Australian Government for billions of pounds because Australia introduced plain packaging for cigarettes.

It's also suing Uruguay for simply putting a health warning on cigarette packets there.

I want the UK government to be able make laws to protect the people of this country, which is why I've joined the World Development Movement's campaign to stop the deal.

Paul Sutton, Dinas Powys.

Who wants to build what, and where, in the Vale?

EWM Property Co Ltd – **Holm House, Marine Parade, Penarth** – Single storey extension to existing hotel restaurant; Change of Use of manager's flat to hotel accommodation; new railings to front boundary wall.

Mr Paul David Mahoney – **Church Rise, Wenvoe** – Demolish existing potting sheds and replace with two-bedroom dwelling.

Mr Smith – **Maendy Ganol Cottage, Trerhyngyll** – Increase roof height of garage and dormer to create first floor.

Mrs Gloria Davies – **Land adjacent to 41, Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – Construction of detached two-bedroom bungalow with on-site parking.

Mrs Jayne Drummond – **New House, Llancarfan** – Construct new detached single storey garage and demolish existing boundary wall and gate. Construct new boundary wall; alteration to ground floor front elevation of house; remove existing garage doors and infill new window and masonry surround.

Mrs Catherine Richards – **8 Llwyn Passat, Penarth** – Replacing single door and window at the rear of an existing property with a set of bifold doors; enlarging an opening, fitting steel lintels and making good; fitting decking to back garden.

Dow Corning Ltd – **Dow Corning Ltd, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Planning Application to develop a Biomass Energy Facility (BEF) including associated works. The BEF facility will be capable of generating 24.2mw of thermal energy (steam) via the gasification of up to 60,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of recycled wood chip fuel on land within the Dow Corning Barry site.

Mr Christian Parsons – **73 Plassey Street, Penarth** – Rear loft extension.

Mr John Coombes – **43 Clive Place, Penarth** – Material alterations to the side elevation.

Mr and Mrs Pothecary – **21 Heol Sant Bridget, St Brides Major** – Conservatory extension to rear.

Beechwood Court Ltd – **Beechwood College, Beechwood House, Hayes Road, Sully** – New Vocational Learning Centre for Beechwood College including change of use from agricultural land. Facilities proposed include a new Vocational Centre (2-year temporary consent), workshops, paddock, stables and polytunnel.

Mr Gwyn Davies – **Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol** – Proposed retention of wine store and ancillary side marquee to main farmhouse.

Mr Gwyn Davies – **Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol** – Proposed retention of canopy linking main farmhouse to Visitor Centre and accommodation block.

Mr D Saif – **9 Crossfield Road, Barry** – Demolition of existing garage, proposed two storey extension to form kitchen and garage and master bedroom with en-suite bathroom to first floor.

Ms C O'Shea – **4 Church View, Llanblethian** – Proposed extension, refurbishment and internal reconfiguration of existing bungalow.

Mrs Kate Skone – **105 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Creation of a gateway and off-road parking space for disabled person.

Bellway Homes Ltd – **Land to the north of railway line off Pentir Y De, Rhoose** – Reserved Matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 126 dwellings.

Mr and Mrs Anthony Green – **24 Beechwood Drive, Penarth** – Single storey side extension to provide kitchen extension and bike store.

Miss Nichola Treharne – **29 Cae Stumpie, Cowbridge** – Single storey extension to rear elevation and porch to front elevation.

Mr Howard Whittaker – **The Croft, Nurston** – Change of Use of small parcel of agricultural land on the south, west and east boundary of The Croft to within residential curtilage.

Mr and Mrs Westwood – **32 West Farm Road, Ogmore By Sea** – Remove complete roof, raise pitch and install a new roof configuration, balcony and ancillary works.

Mr Neil Heard – **Bryn House, Penylan Road, St Brides Major** – Single storey garden shed.

Dr H Payne – **Pentre Beili, Colwinston** – Installation of wood burning appliance and chimney.

Mr and Mrs S Glynne – **Ysgubor House, Llancarfan Lane, Barry** – First floor side extension.

Mrs Bridget Johnson – **19 Baron Road, Penarth** – The construction of a three metre, single storey extension at the rear of 19 Baron Road, Penarth which consists of a living and storage area.

Brownfield Green Ltd – **Porthkerry Road Methodist Church, Porthkerry Road, Barry** – Subdivision of dwelling 4 (as per 2014/00224/FUL and 2014/00225/LBC) into two dwellings and associated alterations including additional door.

Mr Stephen Penny – **1 Seaview Cottages, Twyn Yr Odyn** – Kitchen extension single storey.

Mr Adrian Shakespeare – **3 Frampton Lane, Llantwit Major** – First floor extension above double garage.

Mr and Mrs Malessa Thompson – **23 Seaview Drive, Ogmore By Sea** – Single storey rear extension with roof terrace and dormer roof extension.

Mr K Williams – **23 Britten Road, Penarth** – Proposed ground floor extension with detached garage and first floor dormer conversion to an existing single storey bungalow.

Mr Carl and Mrs Kelly Hoskins – **2 Manorbier Close, Dinas Powys** – Proposed rear extension to full width of dwelling and the conversion of integral garage to an additional bathroom.

Mrs Helen Such – **34 Pencoedtre Road, Barry** – Two dormer extensions, proposed balcony, porch and rear extension.

Mr S Davis and Ms G Anderson – **1 Penyrheol Terrace, Llysworney** – Take down existing conservatory and construct new kitchen extension with internal alterations and to extend existing rear elevation lean-to.

Mr and Mrs Matthew Barker – **7 The Verlands, Cowbridge** – Alterations, extension to existing house.

Mr DS Marriot – 31 **Marine Drive, Ogmore By Sea** – Single storey extension, first floor extension including lift conversion, new access driveway and associated works and balcony – resubmission of 2014/00233/FUL.

Mr Carey Jones – **Brooklands, Brook Lane, St Nicholas** – Change of Use of land to a residential use associated with Brooklands Hall, and retention and alterations to existing barn for a use ancillary to the main dwelling house.

Mr Max Dormer – **Benacre, Cowbridge Road, St Nicholas** – Single storey front, side and rear extensions, including internal redesign and driveweay alterations.

Mr Mitul Shah – **Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry** – Alterations to existing East Wing first floor conservatory and construction of new West Wing first floor conservatory.

Mr Gerard Gilhooly – **28 Duffryn Crescent, Peterston Super Ely** – First floor extension above existing garage.

Ms Elizabeth Twose – **49 Castle Drive, Dinas Powys** – Single storey side extension.

Stephen Jarvis – **15 Mountjoy Crescent, Penarth** – Extension to the front and side of property to form a porch and utility room.

Wesh Power Group Ltd – **Former Ineos Chlor Cemical Works site, Barry** – Application for Full Planning Permission for the construction and operation of a small embedded Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) generating plant and auxiliary equipment on the former Ineos Chlor Chemical Works site, Barry.

Mr and Mrs S Rees – **Llandough Castle, Llandough, Cowbridge** – Demolition of shed and replacement with oak framed garage/workshop with attached gym.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Colcot Junior and Infant School, Florence Avenue, Barry** – Erection of a new prefabricated building for early years teaching including site works and accessible parking.

Mr and Mrs Edwards – **Pwll Y Wrach Farm, Colwinston** – Part single with part double storey side extension for use by agricultural workers.

Mr Jonathan Rees – **33 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Works to reinstate chimneys to side and rear elevations of existing property.

Barratt Developments plc – **Plot 7, Showhome, former Ogmore Residential Centre, Ogmore By Sea –** Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

Ms Sara Movery – **Orchard Cottage, Leckwith, Cardiff** – New window on the first floor bathroom on the side.

Mr Paul Rapley – **4 West Terrace, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension and material alterations.

Mr G Spargo – **Boverton Grange, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – Demolish existing garage, shower and family room and replace with a larger family room with new garage and shower room.

Mr and Mrs T Hackett – **49 Penlan Road, Llandough, Penarth** – Hip to gable roof extension, rear dormer and single storey side and rear extensions. Alterations of coach house to allow use as ancillary accommodation.

Mr SP Caddick – **17 Elm Grove, Barry** – Erect a single storey extension to the rear of the property.

Mr and Mrs Alan Stamp – **Ty Celyn, Westra, Dinas Powys** – Rear and over garage extension to form new first floor at side of house.

Mrs S Morel – **The Stables, The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely** – Proposed amendments to approved scheme ref 2013/00628/FUL being revised porch, internal arrangements and minor changes to elevations (doors and windows).

Mr James Poole – **Land off Port Road, Wenvoe** – Erection of two advertising signs at land off Port Road, Wenvoe.

Mr Vincent Wells – **29 Ael y Coed, Barry** – Extension.

Phil Williams – **Land to the north of Junction 33, Creigiau** – Comprehensive development of land to create a new community containing a range of new homes, park and ride facility and transport interchange or hub, community facilities including new primary school and community centre, including shops, financial and professional, food and drink, and a new clinic or surgery.

Ms Anne Motton – **78 Althorpe Drive, Penarth** – Single storey extension to rear and side of property to provide additional kitchen space, sitting area and downstairs toilet provision.

Mr Peter Milford – **Gileston Cottage, Gileston** – Removal of Condition 1 of permission 1980/02002 for use of the building as a holiday let.

Mr Phil Beaman – **Maslin Park, Plymouth Road, Barry** – Demolition of two changing room units and replacement with a single demountable Portakabin unit on the same site utilising the existing mains supplies.

Mrs Fran Mullaney – **69 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Alterations to existing rear extension.

Mr R James – **The Grange, Trepit Road, Wick** – Conversion and extension of barn and outbuildings into domestic dwelling.

Mr D Curtin – **20a Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys** – Fell one Oak tree.

Ms Alyson Courteney – **The Lindens, Bradford Place, Penarth** – Minimal pruning to Cedar tree, crown raise to 6m Horse Chestnut, re-pollard Lime tree and crown raise trees to 6m over highway.

Mr Gareth Roberts – **St Illtyds Church, Llantwit Major** – Fell four conifers and one additional tree.

Barry RFC look back

1st XV

BARRY 1st XV began the season in the Swalec National League Division 4 South East, with high hopes after falling agonisingly short of promotion on the last day of the prior campaign.

Unfortunately, hampered by a long injury list early on in the season, the signs were not good. It was October before the side picked up their first win, a narrow victory over then fellow strugglers Llandaff North.

With hard work on the training ground, the youthful Barry side began to respond to the challenge and put on a decent run of form just before Christmas, finally finding a way to win close games at the death, most notably with a last-gasp try at Bryncethin.

With captain Hywel Jones returning to the fore at the end of the calendar year, Barry headed into 2014 in high spirits, and this was soon reflected on the pitch.

Under the coaching and guidance of head coach Darren Gibbon, forwards coach Dai Griffith and manager Stuart Lock, the side put together an impressive run of form after the turn of the year.

A big derby victory over local rivals Llantwit Major saw the beginning of a winning run that would last six games, with the height of success being a victory over champions-elect St Joseph's under the Cardiff Arms Park lights.

Barry finished with three straight victories as the spring sunshine unfolded, and the final game of the season, a 56-10 victory over Tonyrefail, was a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication put in by the players.

The management and supporters will hope that this momentum will carry onto the next campaign.

Most tries: Dave Provis (eight). Most points: Einan Scott (79). Player of the year: Dave Provis. Most improved: Owain Poole.

2nd XV

THE 2nd XV were once again under the guidance of Rhidian Scott and he was joined by Ken Chow, who was promoted from the 3rd XV.

As with the 1st XV, there were high hopes for the side to do well in both league and cup.

The large number of players unavailable for the 1st XV in the start of the season saw their troubles filter down, and it was no surprise that it was a struggle to get a side together in the autumn, never mind gathering any momentum.

The side were staring at the possibility of relegation in December, with no wins from six, little consistency in selection, with seemingly no light at the end of the tunnel.

To the huge credit of the players, they turned it round in 80 minutes on a bitterly cold afternoon at St Peter's, as they came from behind to win 27 – 22 with a threadbare squad with numerous debutants.

From then on the side kicked on. Using a blend of youth and experience, and being able to welcome back several key players, Barry were undefeated from December to April, winning seven out of eight games to see them banish any thoughts of potential relegation.

Their form saw them finish the season on a high, hammering St Peter's 69 – 17 on their final league fixture, and also appearing in the East District Cup final, where they were bested by a very strong Cardiff Met side.

The 2nd XV will surely draw on this momentum to make a sustained challenge in the league campaign next season.

Coach: Rhidian Scott. Manager: Ken Chow. Captain: Nick Rolfe. Most tries: Brad White (nine). Most points: Adam Lee (74). Player of the year: Sion Vidal. Most improved: Brad White.

3rd XV

The 3rd XV made their bow in the Cardiff and District league for the first time, as they aimed to complete a league season for the first time in recent memory.

With player-manager Chris Prosser in charge, aided by numerous caretaker managers throughout the season, the side got off to a flying start, brushing aside Whitchurch in the opening weekend, winning 105-0.

The side continued their good form, also beating Cardiff Quins home and St Peter's away, but there were also some difficult times when the 3rd XV struggled to get a side together.

To the full credit of the players and management staff, the side carried on, and unlike previous seasons, where player numbers would drop off, the interest in participation actually increased as the year went on.

Barry finished the season with an away victory at Llanishen, and have shown that they could easily hold their own in a league full of more experienced second and third teams.

The 3rd XV will hope to consolidate their position in their division next season, and to produce more opportunities for players who want to enjoy social rugby.

Player-Manager: Chris Prosser. Caretaker managers: Andy Moffat, Ken Chow. Captain: Lloyd Jones. Most tries: Michael Avaient (eight). Most points: Ryan Corrigan (48). Player of the year: Michael Avaient. Most improved: Gareth Hall.

Millwood results

THIS Division 3 game between Millwood and Thomastown ended with a seven shot victory for the 'Town side after a glorious afternoon on a very fast running green.

It appeared that most of the Millwood players took a long time to get the run and speed of the green. Even the home side players were saying how fast the green was running; no excuses though, it was a very good game.

After five ends Thomastown were leading by 26-12 shots, after 10 ends the score was 39-34 to the home side, 15 ends was 46 – 61 to Thomastown, and finished 82-75 to the home side.

A 12-2 points defeat for Millwood, so we need to improve this Saturday against Gelligaled at home!

Millwood 'A' ran out victors in their Division 5 game against Splot Phoenix at home by the narrow margin of only two shots!

Enough though to ensure that Millwood 'A' picked up 10 points to Splott Phoenix's four points.

After the first five ends Millwood were trailing Splott by 11 shots 17 – 28, and after 10 ends the score was 39-41 in favour of Splott, then again, after 15 ends Splott had another 11 shot advantage, 54 – 65, but Millwood 'A' managed to rally up enough shots in the last six ends to get a well earned 84-82 victory, even though Millwood 'A' were a man short in one of the rinks, so all credit to the home side for a very good victory.

I am sure that both sides enjoyed the finest of conditions and gamesmanship, well done the 'A' side. This Saturday they are away to Llantrisant 'A', keep it up!

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00674/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Single storey front, side and rear extensions, including internal redesign and driveway alterations
Location:/Lleoliad: Benacre, Cowbridge Road, St. Nicholas
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth St. Nicholas

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00657/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Subdivision of dwelling 4 (as per 2014/00224/FUL and 2014/00225/LBC) into two dwellings and associated alterations including additional door
Location:/Lleoliad: Porthkerry Road Methodist Church, Porthkerry Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00677/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Alterations to existing East wing first floor conservatory and construction of new West wing first floor conservatory
Location:/Lleoliad: Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00696/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construct a frameless glass entrance lobby on front elevation.
Location:/Lleoliad: The Market Place Restaurant, 66, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00712/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of a small/modern stud wall to the rear of the interior of the shop ground floor
Location:/Lleoliad: 71, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00729/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of two dormer bungalows, church parking and walkway
Location:/Lleoliad: Land south of Llanmaes
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting the Church of St. Cattwg, Grade II*, Cross in churchyard of Church of St. Cattwg, Grade II, Railed tomb of Nicholl family East of Chancel at Church of St. Cattwg, Grade II and Llanmaes House (Great House), Grade II*

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00610/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Planning Application to develop a Biomass Energy Facility (BEF) including associated works. The BEF facility will be capable of generating 24.2MW of thermal energy (steam) via the gasification of up to 60,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of recycled wood chip fuel on land within the Dow Corning Barry site.
Location:/Lleoliad: Dow Corning Ltd, Cardiff Road, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00639/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reserved Matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 126 dwellings.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the north of railway line off Pentir Y De, Rhoose

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00167/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing buildings, construction of 17 dwellings and associated works.
Location:/Lleoliad: Ardwyn, Pen Y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 26 June, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Keen competition in the sun at Llandow Kart club

ROUND five of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship continued the season's form as far as the weather was concerned, with warm sunshine greeting 49 drivers for the first meeting after May's successful Welsh Championships.

Having missed round four, the Bambinos were back on the bill for June, although only two drivers – Nathan Browning and McKenzie Douglass – were in action. Browning put in the fastest lap time of the day at 1min 01.403secs, with Douglass a couple of seconds further back.

With positions now being judged on times achieved, Browning was awarded first place. LKC hopes to have a much larger grid of Bambinos for July's round to remember the late Richard Dowers.

A slimmed-down Cadet grid boasted just 10 entries, but that did not prevent some of the best racing of the day being provided by the younger members of the club. The two IAME runners, Shay Keough and Ethan Rees, led the way in each of the four races, with Keough crossing the line first each time to erase some of the disappointment at losing out on the Welsh title.

Cadet Honda honours, in the heats at least, were shared between brothers Oscar and Stuart Ferguson but, when it came to the final, neither could dislodge George Alp-Williams from top spot. Stuart led Oscar across the line to ensure a double Ferguson podium, while Austin Maddocks took fourth place.

Cadet Comer was the preserve of Max Fenlon, who claimed each of the day's four races ahead of Shayne Clarke.

Despite Kath Denscombe Memorial Award winner Sofia Nardone graduating to the Senior class, Junior Honda numbers remained at five, with Ben Cutler joining the regular runners for the first time.

It was Patrick Hill that everyone was gunning for, however, the new Welsh champion winning heats two and three as well as the final, while season-long rival Kristian Prosser had to settle for success in the opening race of the day.

Cutler started well with third in heat one, but it was Jack Bligh who completed the podium when it mattered most.

Hugo Holmes made a successful return to Junior TKM a month after retiring from the Welsh Championships final, claiming heat three and the main race at the head of a seven-kart field. Alex Rees started strongly, with victory in each of the opening two races, but was excluded from the final, allowing Sam Johns and Yousuf Ashraf to complete the podium.

With nine runners split almost equally between the Junior and Minimax classes, each was afforded its own final, having run together through the day's three heats. Rob Ellis once again proved unbeatable in the junior section, crossing the line first in each of the heats before beating Tom Croydon – one month on from breaking his wrist in a karting accident – and Jodie Handford to the chequered flag in the main event.

Handford finished third in each of the day's races, with Tom Ford providing the only change in the top three, with second place in the third heat.

Riley Phillips confirmed his May qualifying pace by dominating the Minimax class, winning each of the four races ahead of regular frontrunner and new Welsh champion Ethan Ling. Jem Hempworth and Kieran Clarke completed the line-up with the former having the upper hand in the battle for third place.

Senior Honda numbers again threatened to return to double figures, with the Nardone clan making up a third of the grid as Sofia and Roberto joined Cristiano in the nine-kart field.

The presence of newly-minted Welsh champion Chris Lipscomb should have provided some tasty racing at the front of the pack, but there was no denying Danny Griffiths, who completed a clean sweep of heats and final.

Lipscomb was second on each occasion, with Monty Gorringe ensuring that the top three remained the same throughout.

Senior Rotax also saw an unfamiliar face at the very top of the timesheets, as Tom Stride claimed three of the day's four races, including the final. He started as he meant to go on, beating Gareth Taylor to the line in heat one, and then repeated the feat in the third race.

Taylor claimed heat two, and ran Stride close in the main event, eventually missing out by just 0.677secs. Dilip Singh and Sebastian Hutchinson shared third places in the heats, but it was Sam Morgan who completed the podium in the final.

Round six of the 2014 Llandow club championship takes place at South Wales Karting Centre on Sunday, July 20.

Results:

BAMBINO: 1 – Nathan Browning (Zip); 2 – McKenzie Douglass (CRG).

CADET HONDA: 1 – George Alp-Williams (Project One); 2 – Stuart Ferguson (Project One); 3 – Oscar Ferguson (Project One).

CADET COMER: 1 – Max Fenlon (RK Birel); 2 – Shayne Clarke (Zip).

CADET IAME: 1 – Shay Keough (Zip); 2 – Ethan Rees (Zip).

JUNIOR HONDA: 1 – Patrick Hill (Wright); 2 – Kristian Prosser (7Kart); 3 – Jack Bligh (7Kart).

JUNIOR TKM: 1 – Hugo Holmes (Tonykart); 2 – Sam Johns (Jade); 3 – Yousuf Ashraf (Jade).

JUNIOR ROTAX: 1 – Rob Ellis (Kosmic); 2 – Tom Croydon (Gillard); 3 – Jodie Handford (Tonykart).

MINI MAX: 1 – Riley Phillips (Kosmic); 2 – Ethan Ling (CRG); 3 – Jem Hempworth (CRG).

SENIOR HONDA: 1 – Danny Griffiths (MS); 2 – Chris Lipscomb (7Kart); 3 – Monty Gorringe (7Kart).

SENIOR ROTAX: 1 – Tom Stride (CRG); 2 – Gareth Taylor (CRG); 3 – Sam Morgan (CRG).

BEST NOVICE: Alex Wilkins (Junior Honda).

DRIVER OF THE DAY: George Alp-Williams (Cadet Honda).

Craig Llewellyn

Miskin pony is a show stopper!

Ysselvliedts Highwood. Photo by Ryan Wilson.

CHAMPION Welsh mountain pony at the Royal Three Counties Show on June 13–15 at Malvern, was the six-year-old Dutch-bred stallion *Ysselvliedts Highwood* owned by Dr Wynne Davies MBE and David Davies of the Ceulan Stud, Miskin, Pontyclun.

Dr Wynne won his first Three Counties Show championship way back in 1950 with his stallion *Dinarth What Ho,* who went on to be twice Royal Welsh Show champion.

Another success for the stud this time was *Ceulan Shem* owned by the Southworth family of Warrington, Cheshire and ridden by Rebecca Southworth, who qualified from 26 entries for the Horse of the Year Show, at the NEC Centre, Birmingham in October.

Maximum points for the Romilly bowlers

BARRY Romilly's Munro Cup team travelled to Cowbridge recently in anticipation of a difficult game on a carpet rink.

Teams have always struggled in previous games on the very fast carpet but although a new carpet has been laid this year there was still apprehension on what the conditions would present.

Any concerns were immediately put aside with the 'Rom' racing into a 32 – 11 lead after end five; they went further ahead by the 10th end, 68 – 24. The new conditions obviously favoured Romilly with all rinks well on top by the 15th end, leading by 67 shots, 99 – 32.

The game ended with Romilly still well ahead with the final score 109 – 48, and a full 14 points for an excellent victory.

CML Division 1

Romilly travelled to last years champions Ferndale hoping they could continue their good start to the season.

Although a very difficult place to go and play against a very good side, the 'Rom' were up for the game and were looking for a win rather than the four points that are normally hoped for in away games.

Very early on Romilly realised that this game was once again going to be difficult and found themselves down by end five 9 – 23, with Jeff Wright and Mel Newman's rinks finding the going tough.

By the 10th end Romilly had recovered and were only three shots behind, 34 – 37, thanks to the rinks of Graham Cogbill and Brian Foscolo who were ahead by 11 and four respectively.

Newman and Wright's rinks continued to struggle and at the 15th end were astray by 12 and 15 respectively, while the rinks of Cogbill and Foscolo were still showing ahead.

Graham Cogbill, who was moved to skip at the start of the season, has had a tremendous winning run and this continued with another victory, 26 – 9, while Jeff Wright's rink made an effort over the final six ends, scoring 11 shots to three to lose overall by seven shots, 18 – 25.

Mel Newman's rink struggled all afternoon, finally going down 10 – 23, while Brian Foscolo's rink who had lead after the fifth end with lead Alan Bannister having an excellent game ended up losing by one shot, 23 – 24.

Romilly were a shade unlucky not to win the match overall, losing by four shots and only taking two of the 14 points on offer. Match score 77 – 81.

CML Division 3

Romilly 'A' team were home to a strong Wattstown side but were expecting a positive result and Romilly held a four shot lead after the fifth end.

The lead at the 10th end was still Romilly's, but only by one shot with two rinks ahead and two behind with Wattstown, as expected, pushing the the 'Rom' all the way.

There were tremendous tussles on three rinks as the Romilly skips of Brian Cheal, Bryn Gough and Tony Freeman fought hard to remain close to their rivals, with only Des Bannister's rink falling behind.

The game remained close with Romilly only three behind with two ends to play, but over the final two ends Wattstown continued the pressure and collected a further three shots to win the game 66 – 72.

Romilly collected four points due to the rinks of Bryn Gough and Tony Freeman both winning by three and two shots respectively.

FP

Porthkerry Road CHURCH CONVERSION news update

Brownfield Green.co.uk modern homes -with- history

The Porthkerry Road project

The site is a former Methodist Church on Porthkerry Road. We are converting the two buildings into 11 high quality houses, each with 2 to 3 bedrooms. Every house will be spacious with *unique period and contemporary features,* as well as a private garden.

Key features to include: Double height open plan spaces, original sanded and varnished floor boards, elements of original stained glass, exposed stone, high performance double glazing (in new elements), internal insulation throughout, quality kitchens and bathrooms, and an individual car parking space. Each house is effectively new throughout, with the *existing walls being the historic element.* It's the best of both worlds – a new home but with a lot of character.

At present we are programmed to complete the first 2 houses at the end of the year, with an open day in January 2015.
More details to follow.

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We are a property development company who specialise in the restoration and sympathetic conversion of historic buildings.
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We act as the developer and contractor which allows us to keep our costs low, quality high – and provide people with well finished homes that remain affordable.

Contemporary homes... in historic buildings

SITE OPERATIVE OF THE MONTH

This is a new competition for everyone working on site. Each month a £100 bonus will be paid. This month's winner is Adrian.
He has show real work ethic, natural ability, and commitment since starting 4 weeks ago.
Congratulations Adrian!

WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND OUR NEIGHBOURS

We always try to become an active part of the community in the areas in which our projects are based. We have now employed experienced local trades people from Barry (and environs) in a number of key roles to work on the conversion. We think it is important to provide opportunities and employment for local people.

We have also worked with Wayne Pinkard of the Vale of Glamorgan Council to provide some employment opportunities to a number of young local people out of work. Congratulations to Liam, Malcolm, and Mark. We have been really impressed by their work ethic and they are all learning very quickly. Keep up the good work!
Unfortunately we do not have any further vacancies at present.

Bowlers enjoy good weather

IN brilliant sunshine Cadoxton hosted an ML4 match against Cyfarthfa Park.

They shared the rinks with two wins each. The two Cadoxton losing rinks both had terrible starts.

Kelvin Chedzoy's rink was 6-0 down after two ends; 17-4 after 8 ends and 23-8 after 15, before a recovery during the remaining ends closed the gap to just 5 shots.

Howard Craven's rink had a deficiency of 21 – 4 before their recovery started on the 12th end with eight winning ends from the remainder, to reduce the difference to 24 – 16.

The rink skipped by John Jones had a good start and after 9 ends led 11-3. By the 14th the difference was still 8 shots with the score at 15-7. After two singles against a '3' gave them a nine shot advantage, but in a tense finish seven shots were conceded reducing this to just two playing the final end.

John Jones won the points by obtaining the winning shot with an outrageous last bowl which must have contacted three or four bowls before settling next to the jack.

Don Kuhnell seemed to be well in control on his rink with a lead of 15 -1 after eight ends.

However once the opposition had sussed out the rink they outplayed the home side for the rest of the game.

Nevertheless, the home side held onto a three shot advantage, going into the final end. The visitors held three shots, but Don drew the third shot, with the last bowl, by the narrowest of margins to win the match by one shot.

Scores: S Clarke, I Robertson, D Brook, H Craven 16 - 24; P Swannick, I Heppenstall, P Ellis, K Chedgzoy 19 - 24; G Garland, D Evans, G Davies, D Kuhnell 20 - 19; H Hellyar, A Carpenter, D Jeffries, J Jones 19 - 16. Final score: 74 - 83.

CADOXTON 'A' V YNYSYBWL 'A' - ML5

Although things are starting to look a little brighter for Cadoxton 'A' with members returning from illness, they still were unable to field a full side with holidays, etc, intervening.

They lost their ML5 match at Ynysybwl. However the good news is, that at the time of going to press there is a full team available for next week. Well done to all players who have kept the team alive during this period.

Scores: R Byrne, J Crout, D Tuck 18 -28; G Powell, R Morris, D Fanning 10 – 36; E Heppenstall, A Prince, M Curtis 12 – 35; S Clements, R Cole, D Hammond10 -24. Final score: 50 - 123.

DK

Watts Shield is won by Watts family!

PICTURED are the winners of the Ruth Watts Challenge Shield 2014 held at Llancarfan Pétanque Piste on Sunday, June 22.

As it transpires, team Watts won the final round! Russ Watts, Phil Watts and Viv Davies won the competition – very fitting for the 10 year anniversary of the shield, to be won by its namesake!

A lovely day was had by all in attendance, with glorious sunshine adding to the event – here's to the next one!

SW

Seconds are beaten by Neath batsmen

ON another scorching day, Neath won the toss and decided to put Llantwit Major Cavaliers seconds in to bat.

On a wicket that was never going to be easy to bat on, Neath bowled fairly accurately and made it difficult for Llantwit to find runs.

The scoreboard never overflowed with runs at any stage and Llantwit were grateful for the knocks of Scott Buckley (26) and Kieran Davies (36 not out) which allowed them to amass a very defendable 125-9 off 40 overs.

This season, Llantwit's strong point has been their bowling attack. With scores remaining low in the majority of their games this season, the purist would have had their money on a Llantwit win.

However, the bowlers didn't seem to read this script. The one thing that stood out from Neath's bowling display was that they bowled in good areas and made the batsman work for their runs.

Llantwit seemed to do the reverse of this and made it all too easy for anyone with a bat in their hand to score runs. The ever-dependable Dave Cheal shone with figures of 5-25 off his 10 overs.

Kieran Davies did his best at the end to try and pick Llantwit up and put a fire into their belly to try and get the wickets needed to win this one.

Unfortunately the damage was already done and despite picking up two wickets, Neath cantered home with plenty of overs to spare winning the game by two wickets.

Hopefully the Cavs have got this poor bowling display out of their system and can bounce back this weekend.

DMC

Flint's success

BRIDGEND trainer John Flint landed the Visit Us At Newton AbbotRacing.Com Handicap Hurdle at Newton Abbot last Monday with his six-year-old Bernisdale.

In a field of 14 runners, Bernisdale, a 9-2 chance, partnered by T J O'Brien, came home five lengths ahead of the favourite Applause For Amy, ridden by Tom Scudamore.

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- EPC Rating-C

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- Three bedrooms
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- EPC Rating-C

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- EPC Rating-C

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RICS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 2 July 2014

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ABERAERON CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 307472
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £100.44 per week including water charges

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1112498
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- **First floor (no lift)**
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme co-ordinator
- Communal door/gardens

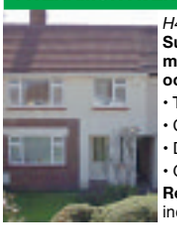
Rent £104.46 per week including service charges

ELIS FISHER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 100393
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- **Ground floor**
- Economy 7 heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme co-ordinator
- Communal door/gardens

Rent £107.97 per week including service charges

FITZHAMON AVENUE, LLANTWIT MJR



H4U reference 234895
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

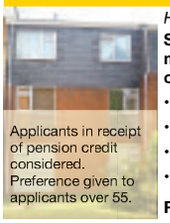
Rent £106.60 per week including water charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 1007698
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment GF
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme co-ordinator
- Communal door/gardens

Rent £118.68 pw inc. service charges, water rates and heating

NEWHOUSE COURT, BARRY



Applicants in receipt of pension credit considered. Preference given to applicants over 55.

H4U Reference 1117686
Suitable for applicants meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £87.70 per week

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 221628
Suit for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Communal gardens

Rent £82.39 per week including water charges

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY

H4U reference 222610
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £92.52 per week inc water nd alarm charges

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U reference 245363
Suitable for applicants meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £88.17 per week including water charges

THE MEADOWS, CORNTOWN

H4U reference 250150
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

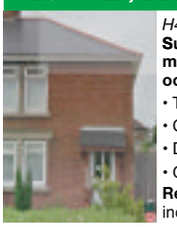
Rent £107.05 per week including water charges

THOMPSON STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1114030
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bed town house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Integral garage
- Parking/rear garden

Rent £96.67 per week inc service & water chgs

WEST WALK, BARRY



H4U reference 227581
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £104.87 per week including water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available immediately
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Wednesday 9 July	St Brides Major – Fox and Hounds car park	10:00am to 2:00pm
Tuesday 15 July	Cowbridge – Waitrose car park	10:00am to 2:00pm

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Allen Court, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Open Plan Living
£135,000 D62

Byron Court, Llantwit Major
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For Over 60s
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Hazel Bungalow, Boverton
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Detached Bungalow
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£125,000 D55

Pinewood Square, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
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End Plot
£85,950 E51

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
70' Garden.
Requires Modernising.
£110,000 E42

Millands Park, Llanmaes
2 Bedrooms
GCH Combi
Rural Location
£84,950 tbc

Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage
£210,000 C72

Partridge Road, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
No Chain
Great Open Views
£95,000 E50

Boverton Brook, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Sought After Location
£349,950 E48

Harding Close, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Private Rear
£220,000 C69

Spitzkop, Llantwit Major
2 Beds. 2 Recps.
Cons. Garage.
Great town location.
£249,950 D68

Rectory Court, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major
5 Bedrooms, 3 Receptions
Double Garage
£445,000 D67

Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Garage
Southerly Rear
£182,500 C69

Roberts Close, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps
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Quiet Close
£180,000 D56

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Two Bedrooms, Conservatory
Driveway.
D70 - £550 PCM

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D74 - £550 PCM

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Two Double Bedrooms,
Fitted Kitchen, Enclosed Garden.
D61 - £550 PCM

Queen Street, Barry.
West End Location,
Three Bedrooms,
Shower. E49 - £575 PCM

Monmouth Way, Llantwit Major.
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner,
Conservatory.
C76 - £650 PCM

Showle Acre, Rhoose.
Three Bedrooms,
Lounge/Dining Room
Enlcosed Rear Garden.
C73 - £650 PCM

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En Suite.
D64 - £995 PCM

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Georgian Close, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
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£155,000 D67

Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
High Specification Kitchen
Family Home
£335,000 D68

Roberts Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Rural Views
20' Sitting Room
£164,950 F38

Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Corner Position
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£209,995 C70

Elm Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
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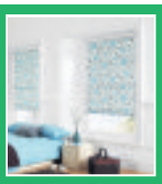
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Public Notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Mr Thomas Morris trading as **Morris & Co (Handlers) Ltd of Bankwood Lane, Rossington, Doncaster DN11 0PS** is applying for a licence to use **Unit 2 Sutton Road, Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7PA** as an operating centre for **1** goods vehicle and **2** trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

BakerCorp UK Ltd of **Unit 9B, New Street, Bridgend, CF31 3UD** is applying for a licence to use **Unit 9B, New Street, Bridgend, CF31 3UD** as an operating centre for **4** vehicles and **80** trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Licensing Act 2003
Application to Vary Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Rontec Watford Limited. Address: Four Cross Service Station, St Athan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 4JA. Licensing Authority: Vale of Glamorgan Council. Licensing Authority Address: Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RU (where a record of the application may be inspected during normal office hours). Licensing Authority Website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The applicant has applied to the Licensing Authority to vary the premises licence for the above premises as follows: 1. To extend the hours for the sale of alcohol to 24 hours a day 7 days a week. 2. To include late night refreshment between the hours of 2300 and 0500 7 days a week. 3. To vary the licence conditions. 4. To make alterations to the premises. Any person or responsible authority (as defined by the Licensing Act 2003) may make representations to the Licensing Authority no later than 17 July 2014. Any representations made to the Licensing Authority must be in writing.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for this offence is £5,000.

Dated: 18 June 2014

Winckworth Sherwood LLP
Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London, SE1 9BB. Ref: EMF/32991/228/RPB. Solicitors and authorised agents for the applicant.

Public Notice

Fontygary Parks Ltd.

would like to invite you to an informal open meeting at Fontygary Leisure Park to receive your comments and thoughts about a planning application it is proposing to submit to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for the establishment of a touring caravan park on the western side of the field known as 'The Car Park Field.'

Date: Monday 30th June
Time: 3.00pm – 7.30pm
Place: The Cabaret Lounge, Fontygary Leisure Park complex.

Drinks and refreshments will be provided.

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Family Notices

ALISON
Roy

Suddenly at home, Roy passed away on 15th June 2014. Beloved husband of Barbara, much loved father of David and Dawn and loving grandfather of Georgia, Sophie, Henry and Samuel.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service will take place at Llandaff Cathedral on 3rd July 2014 at 2.15pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Save the Children.

BALDRY
William

After a hard fight courageously borne, on the 21st June 2014, Will of Llantwit Major. Cherished husband of Julia and loving father of Rebecca and Jen. He was a unique and colourful character who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm on Friday 4th July. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

GREENWOOD
Elvera Josefine Antonia

Peacefully on 17th June at Morriston University Hospital, aged 94 years, wife of the late Albert of Pembrook Place, Boverton, mother of Norman and Anthony.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral service will take place at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Thursday, 3rd July at 11.30am.

HARNEY
Iris Nancy Josephine

Mike, Pat and Linda wish to thank everyone for their cards, floral tributes and messages of sympathy at this sad time. Special thanks to the wonderful staff at E7 Llandough Hospital and our heartfelt appreciation to the Bella Vista Nursing Home for their tender care during the last year.

Thank you to everyone who attended the funeral service. Also thank you to Anthony and his team at A.G. Adams & Sons Funeral Directors and to the Reverend Robert Parrish for his comforting service.

INSON
Beryl

Paul, Caroline and families wish to thank everyone for their cards and messages of sympathy at this sad time and for the kind donations to Ty Hyfan Children's Hospice. Also many thanks to all family and friends who attended Beryl's service at Llanblethian Church and the service at Coychurch Crematorium on 12th June. Special thanks to James Summers & Son Funeral Directors and Reverend Boult for his comforting service and to the Bear Hotel for their hospitality.

WILLIAMS
Dorothy

Suddenly at Llandough Hospital on Tuesday, June 17th. Beloved wife of Norman, much loved mother of Howard and the late Margaret and Robert, greatly loved by Shirley and the grandchildren Morgan, Tomas, Patrick and Sarah, great grandmother to Skye and Ethan.

The funeral service will be held at All Saints Church, Barry on July 1st at 12 noon, thereafter to Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry for 1.30pm.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research via www.greenwillowfunerals.com (Donations) or direct to the charity. All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, Tel (029) 20514627

DRAISEY
Raymond

Peacefully on the 19th June 2014, Raymond of Boverton. Dearly loved husband of the late Audrey, and much loved father of Sheila and son in law Steve, and a loving grandfather to Andrew and Scott. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

ROBINSON
Anne

Jeffrey, Justin, Stuart, Helen, William and Catherine would like to thank the hundreds of people who came to honour the life of our beloved wife, mother and Nana at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Monday 16th June. We were overwhelmed to see the church so full, and very sorry that our appointment at the Crematorium afterwards meant that we were unable to stop and thank everyone personally at the end of the service.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our friends who organised the reception in the Llanmaes Village Hall on Monday afternoon, and to all who made donations to the Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre to honour Anne's memory.

We have been greatly comforted by the hundreds of cards, letters and messages of support that we have received since Anne's death. Anne's earthly remains now rest at St Cattwg's Church, Llanmaes and although we miss her terribly, we rejoice that her soul is now with God and that those who share her faith can look forward to a happy reunion one day.

Grateful thanks also to Reverend Huw Butler, Rector of Llantwit Major and the clergy team and also to William James & Sons, Fonmon.

JONES
Evan John (John)

After a brave fight, John passed away at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, on June 17.

John, dearly beloved husband of Glenys, much loved dad of Sally, Russell and Elizabeth, respected father-in-law of Chris, Claire and Peter, loving Gramps of grandsons Gareth, Alec, Sam and Ben.

Resting at AG Adams and Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Thursday June 26 at 11.00am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis *www.actionpulmonaryfibrosis.org*

BOUNDS
Grace Winifred

Peacefully on June 21 at Abergarw Manor, Brynmenyn, Grace of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of the late Bill, dearly loved mother of Robert, John and Suzanne, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday July 1, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

ROWLANDS
Peter James

Peacefully on June 18, at St. Davids Hospital Cardiff after a short illness, Peter of Boverton, beloved husband of the late Caroline and the late Ray, dearly loved father of Simon and step-father of Lee, father-in-law of Helena and Sophie, a loving grandfather and great-grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday July 3, service 2.30pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Barbara M. Davies

John and family would like to thank all friends, neighbours and relations for the kindness shown during the recent loss of Barbara.

Also many thanks to the very caring and professional dedication shown from doctors and nurses of Cowbridge Health Centre and the wonderful support of 'Cherish Cymru' Homecare Group and not forgetting the Reverend David Boult and Thomas Brothers undertakers for their friendly and understanding help through this period.

'Woggy'
Warren Pemberton

A true Gentleman and very gentle man, fondly remembered by all who knew him.

HARDING
Suzanna

Peacefully on June 24 at her home in Rhoose, Sue, loving wife of John, mother of Lee, Nicholas and Daniel, mother-in-law of Melanie, devoted sister of Jackie, aunt of Samantha and Sam, sister-in-law of Russ and Gill. Sue, who fought her long illness with great strength, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday July 4, service and cremation 11am at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research U.K. c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

Thank You

Wing Commander Allan and Jean Bruce of Cowbridge
would like to say a huge thank you to all family and friends who helped to make their 70th Anniversary so memorable.

Birthdays

Happy 50th Birthday
CLAIRE FREDERICK
on 1st July
Lots of love, Stu & family XXX

Happy 50th Birthday
Claire Frederick
on 1st July
Lots of love, Natt, Jimmy & Girls xxxx

Michael Scobie
Happy 80th Birthday
25th June
Lots of love, Sue, Ian, Sean, Jason, Gemma, Jamie and great-grandson Bailey. XXX

Cowbridge Comprehensive School's youngsters shine at athletics events

Under-16 girls athletic team.

Under-14 knock out cup team.

THE Year 8 and 9 girls took part in the under-15 girls athletics championships at Leckwith Stadium in the rain on Wednesday, June 4.

Due to the severe weather conditions, only athletes who had spikes were allowed to compete on the track, which meant some of the Cowbridge athletes could not compete.

Despite the severe weather Cowbridge's Jessica Wadey was crowned county champion in the 300m in a time of 45.36s. Megan Hodgson is also county champion in the pole vault which was postponed on June 4 due to the weather and took place at NIAC on June 13. Megan won with a height of 2m50 on a new personal best.

Silver medals went to Tirion Evans in the pole vault also with a new personal best of 2m50. Jessica Wadey came second in the 800m with a time of 2m30. Sophie Oddy came second in the 1500m walk in 11 mins, 33 secs. Bronze medals were won by Megan Hodgson in the 75m hurdles in 12.95s.

Other competitors and results were: 100m - Molly Ann Rees 7th in heat 15.51s; 200m - Ffion McNamee 5th in heat 31.96s; 200m - Nia Davies 5th in heat 32.6; 300m - Sophie Rees 6th in heat 52.72; 800m - Meriel Clode 9th in final 2m43; 1500m - Emily Jenkins 7th in final 6m04; 75m hurdles - Sophie Rees 5th in 'B'final 15.96s; 1500m walk - Jasmine Emery 5th in final 11m25; 4 x 100 - Cowbridge team 8th overall 58.35s; Shot - Hannah Sloan 16th overall with 6m69; Javelin - Molly Williams 11th overall with 14m37. Congratulations to all girls who took part

Congratulations to the Year 9 & 10 girl's athletics team who came first in the knockout cup 'B'final. Cowbridge B team came eighth in the same event.

Results as follows: A team: 100m Mia Sexton 2nd, 200m Nia Davies 8th, 800m Cerys Bradshaw 1st, 1500m Molly Ann Rees 4th, 75m hurdles Niamh Galton 2nd, 4 x 100m 1st, high jump Niamh Galton 1st, long jump Nai Davies 3rd, shot Katie Johnson 5th, discus Olivia Davies 4th and Javelin Sian Smith 2nd.

The B team who came 8th, results as follows: 100m Annie Lloyd 7th, 200m Sophia Harpin 6th, 800m Jemma Viney 6th, 1500m Selina Radcliffe 5th, 75m hurdles Molly Price 7th, 4 x 100m 7th. High jump Molly Price 2nd with a new personal best of 1m50. Long jump Annie Lloyd 5th, shot Hannah Sloan 8th, discus Jemma Viney 5th, javelin Molly Williams 3rd. Well done to all the competitors on an excellent result for girl's athletics.

YEAR 7 & 8

The under-14 athletics A team finished second behind Glantaf and will travel to Brecon for the Welsh Plate Final on July 9.

Also well done to the under-14 B athletics team who finished sixth in the Cardiff and Vale Final.

Individual scores as follows: 100m - Tirion Evans 6th 14.06 (A), Stephanie Brownhill 8th 15.97 (B); 200m Jordan Meek 2nd 27.86 (A), Laura Annetts 1st 29.65 (B); 800m Jessica Wadey 1st 2.27.45 (A); Emily Jenkins 2nd 3.00.55 (B); 1500m Meriel Clode 5th 5.46.19 (A), Sophie Hawkins 2nd 5.51.77 (B); 70m Hurdles Megan Hodgson 1st 11.79 (A), Sophie Rees 3rd 13.81 (B); 4 x 100 relay 2nd 54.58 (A), 6th 60.24 (B); High Jump Megan Hodgson 1st 1.40m (A), Sophie Rees 3rd 1.30 (B); Long Jump Jessica Wadey 8th 3.67 (A), Emily Jenkins 8th 3.06 (B); Shot Jordan Meek 8th 6.24 (A), Stephanie Brownhill 8th 4.62 (B); Discus Sarah Jones 6th 15.17 (A), Sophie Hawkins 7th 11.69 (B); Javelin Ffion McNamee 3rd 17.70 (A), Ellie Inker 7th 11.87 (B).

OLIVER RETURNS

Former pupil Oliver Hitchings has returned to school this week to re-sit an A level maths exam.

He was a popular student at the school and he has been well received by his former teachers and staff.

Ollie has been living in France for this past year while playing for the Bay of Biscay Rugby Club Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque. Having initially signed a one year development contract, he has now signed a one year full time deal which will enable him to concentrate on becoming a regular starter in their 1st XV.

Ollie was due to fly out to Singapore this week to play in the National 10s tournament but instead put his academic studies first choosing to return for the maths exam.

Everyone at the school wishes Ollie all the best for the future - bon voyage!

Oliver Hitchings.

Seconds earn a fine victory

AFTER the intervention of the great British weather, Cowbridge seconds welcomed west Wales club Bronwydd to the Athletic Ground last Saturday for their first home game of the season.

The surroundings showed off the Cowbridge ground at its very best, an excellent pitch and beautifully mown outfield.

For the first time this season Cowbridge won the toss and after recent batting collapses decided to bowl first. Two players at opposite ends of the age range, young Rian Thomas and the experienced John Gilbert opened the bowling.

Gilbert was his usual miserly self, conceding just 28 runs off his 15 overs, Thomas providing good pace and swing for 3-14.

Pressure built up on the Bronwydd batsmen through excellent ground fielding and catching in support of the bowlers including a superb direct hit run out by Joe Russell.

Mike Hordley brought matters to a swift conclusion when introduced to the attack, taking three quick wickets as Bronwydd were bowled out for 119.

After tea Cowbridge set about chasing the target with aplomb, Rian Thomas compiling an excellent 40 and Joe Russell 21.

Seemingly Cowbridge were well on top but a series of loose shots resulted in a clatter of wickets and if victory once seemed certain it now appeared far less so.

The team and supporters need not have worried. Out of retirement came the vastly experienced former 1st XI batsman Robert Thomas and his experience proved to be invaluable as he helped the younger players ease closer to the target.

Robert's excellent footwork against the spinners enabled him to steer the ball into gaps in the field as he took Cowbridge to victory.

At the end Cowbridge won by two wickets and collected 22 points.

JB

Easy Cup win for local bowlers

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S home fixture in the Munro Cup was very one sided against Belle Vue (Penarth) with Llantwit overwhelming them 129-35.

Steve Booker's rink won 47-4, and this was Llantwit's biggest win with Belle Vue having no answer to Llantwit's superior bowling.

Llantwit's initial burst produced 18 shots without reply. In the final stages of the match Llantwit scored another 21 shots over the last five ends.

Graham Jones' rink won 28-11, with Llantwit starting briskly, being 13 shots up after the first four ends. Belle Vue reduced the deficit with a score of three but Llantwit replied, scoring 14 shots over the next six ends.

Belle Vue then rallied, winning the last four ends, taking eight shots.

Charles Hiscock's rink won 25-15, and Llantwit got off to a good start with a score of 12 shots after eight ends.

Belle Vue then won the next five ends, scoring nine shots, but Llantwit then quelled any Belle Vue revival by winning the last few ends.

Neville Young's rink won 29-5, as Llantwit's two front men, Adrian Woods and Tony Thomas, outbowled their opposite numbers with one of them regularly getting the shot; Llantwit won all but four ends.

Llantwit then made the journey to Taffs Well for their league match on Saturday. The result was in the balance right up to the last bowl, with Taffs Well winning 81-79.

Steve Booker's rink won 18-17 as Llantwit held the lead until the sixth end only for Taffs Well to score six shots over the next two ends; Llantwit regained the lead on the ninth end but the lead then fluctuated with Llantwit just getting home by one shot.

Graham Jones' rink won 28-21; Llantwit were level on the fifth end then raised their game, scoring 12 shots over the next six ends; Llantwit consolidated their lead with a score of six on the 18th end to win by seven shots.

Charles Hiscock's rink lost 16-25; Llantwit were up on the third end after scoring three shots but Taffs Well then came out on top, scoring 10 shots over the next six ends - despite a valiant effort by Llantwit they could not get back in the game despite winning the last three ends,

Neville Young's rink lost 17-18, and Llantwit started badly, being six shots down after the eighth end. They then recovered, scoring six shots over the next three ends and then had a good spell with Adrian Woods and Kyle Garrison finding their length and putting in some good bowls.

Llantwit held a one shot advantage going into the final end only to lose by two shots.

Next Saturday Llantwit are home to Llantrisant.

NY

Local horse's trophy success

REPEAT BUSINESS, owned by Cowbridge's Jeffrey and Andrea Bird, has shared the George L Williams Trophy for the leading horse in the maiden category in south and west Wales for 2014.

The six year old gelding was baulked on his debut at the seventh fence at Kingston Blount in Oxfordshire and fell.

However he then achieved two impressive victories at Howick and Llanvapley before slipping on a bend at Pyle.

Recommended by Andrea's cousin, James Tudor, who then rode him in all his races, the horse was bought at the Doncaster sales in August 2013. Repeat Business is trained at the expanding Merthyr Mawr yard of Andrea's brother Jonathan Tudor.

JB

Convincing win for the ladies

THE lady bowlers of Cowbridge postponed their CCS match away at Pengelli, in order to attend the funeral of David Jones, a longtime club member.

Playing on the Thursday in a league match at home to Barry Central, the ladies had a convincing win of 77 shots to 33. Sadly, once again a visiting team could only manage to bring nine players, resulting in their losing a quarter of their score on each rink; still, our ladies won well.

Rink teams and scores: Diane Purnell, Anne Jarvis, Joy Woolford and skip Joan Bradley had a big win of 29-5.

The rink of Janet Morton, Kay Edwards, Sandra Collin and Skip Sue Flower also had a good win 29-7, and on the rink of Lin Wallace, Caryl Davies, Pat Holdsworth and skip Shirley Wilkinson, they had a closer game and won 19-11.

The ladies have two home matches next week, CCS against Porthcawl Ladies and league against Millwood.

The men bowlers played their Munro Cup match away at Millwood and lost 44-78, losing on all four rinks.

The best rink was achieved by Gerwyn Watkins, Len Taylor, Ron Frayling and skip Dennis Snelling, who just lost 15-19. On the rink of John Collin, Bryan Hole, Guy Morton and skip Steve Dickens, they lost 13-21.

After a close game on the rink of Danny Powell, Norman Wilkinson, Clive Pritchard and skip John Trott, with the score at 9-13 down; going into the last end, we dropped a 6 to lose 9-19.

On the rink of Terry Dunsworth, Ron Woolford, Brian Williams and skip Alan Wallace, they lost 7-19.

Playing our third league match away against Fairoak, on a beautiful sunny day at Roath Park, we lost 68-99, but won on two rinks to gain four points. The winning rinks were Clive Pritchard, Mike Bradley, Guy Morton and skip Steve Dickens, who won 19-15, and on the rink of Ron Frayling, Len Taylor, Byron Richards and skip Roger Barwick they won 22-20.

Skip Norman Wilkinson's rink lost 13-31, and skip Brian Williams' rink lost 14-33. Our next league match is at home to Bargoed.

NJW

VALE KARATE NETS MEDALS IN VERONA

PICTURED: From left, Heidi (bronze in Kata); Amy (gold in Kumite); Leah (silver in Kumite). Front: Chiara (gold in Kata).

KARATE WALES sent a squad of 40 competitors from seven clubs and associations, plus eight coaches and a referee to the WUKF (World Union of Karate-Do Federations) European Championships for all ages, which took place in Verona, Italy from June 11-16.

The squad was joined by dozens of family and supporters.

This was probably the biggest karate squad ever to leave Wales for the continent and was packed with quality. Vale Karate were right in the thick of things with nine athletes in 16 categories.

Thursday was the first day of competition and featured events for veteran competitors in four age bands; 36-40, 41-45, 46-50 and 51 plus.

Heidi Christoforato has teamed up with her daughter Kloe in the Welsh Karate League this season to dominate the 'Parent and Child' Kata event.

Kloe is one of Wales' top young champions, but Heidi, although not a regular competitor, mirrors Kloe's technique and speed.

In the Ladies' Veteran 'A' category, Heidi showed that although lacking mat-time, a cool head, more than her fair share of talent and years of dedicated training can pay great dividends.

Her performance brought the strong Wales contingent to their feet and opened Wales' medal account, earning a bronze medal behind two extremely good Italians.

Friday was the busiest day, with all children's events taking place over nine areas of the impressive Palasport Arena.

Chiara Baker was Vale Karate and Karate Wales' star at last years European Championships, taking the WUKF 10 years and under European title.

The Welsh squad and spectators were thrilled as it emerged that Chiara's main opposition in Verona would come from within the Welsh squad! With Sumaya Evans and Aaliyah Wiley, both from Cardiff Shotokan, joining her in the final.

After a wobbly start, Chiara was back in fourth place going into the final, 0.3 behind Aaliyah and 0.2 behind Sumaya.

Chiara delivered a great Kata in the final, earning 24.6, Sumaya earned 24.3, with Aaliyah scoring 23.9, meaning Chiara had again taken the European title, just 0.1 ahead of Sumaya who took silver with Aaliyah taking the bronze.

Sumaya and Aaliyah also proved to be the strongest of the entry in the 10 years and under girls Kumite division, and to the delight of Karate Wales, Sumaya took the European title with Aaliyah the silver medalist!

Vale Karate and indeed Karate Wales has many exciting and extremely promising 11-14 year olds in the squad, but the strength of the youth in the squads from all over Europe, in particular the hosts Italy and the formidable Romanians, made winning medals in this age group a mammoth task.

Max, Harrison, Josh, Emma and Kloe all worked hard and are talented and full of skill, however, things didn't go their way on this occasion and they left without medals.

Leah Copeland and Amy Davis compete against each other constantly in the Ladies Kumite event of the Welsh Karate League.

In Verona, they competed in separate categories, Leah in the Junior Ladies (18-20) and Amy in the Seniors (18-35) both stepped up a level and quite literally put in the best Kumite performances of their lives, full of excitement for the spectators, to reach Sunday's finals.

On Sunday, Leah was up against the brilliant reigning champion from Romania and although she gave 100 per cent, it was not to be and Leah earned the silver medal.

Her progress in Kumite and Kata, where she also reached the final six, but failed to reach the podium, has been dramatic with much more to come.

Amy was the surprise package of the squad. Her final occurred as Luke's ended, but on the other side of the arena. The whole Welsh contingent ran around the stands in order not to miss her final, and such was the support that the announcer asked: "Wales, please be quiet!"

Wales weren't quiet, and Amy took the gold medal in style.

Amy also then competed in the 'Best of the Best', a competition between the different weight category winners. Amy beat the under -60Kg champion before narrowly losing to the plus-60Kg winner. There were no medals in this category, only the winner earning a trophy.

Karate Wales is a new and developing governing body, but with huge potential, and this event was a very big step forward.

The Karate Wales' medal tally of four gold, four silver and eight bronze medals signifies a massive success, with only federations from Romania, Italy, Poland, Russia and Belarus outperforming Karate Wales!

The WUKF World Championships for Children, Cadets and Juniors takes place in Poland on the last weekend of October.

ROBERT COPELAND

Llantwit Major Cavs prosper against Neath

ON a warm summer's day, the Cavs first XI were feeling confident of securing a victory against a side they beat comfortably both home and away last season.

Upon arrival, it was clear to see that Neath had a very different team from last season. Having won the toss the Cavs invited the opposition to bat first on what was a wicket full of runs.

Sam Pickford caused the Neath openers all sorts of problems early on with some quick and occasionally aggressive swing bowling while at the other end Julian Griffiths continued his recent form with some accurate fast bowling.

It was to be Pickford who would take the early spoils taking two wickets with less than 10 overs gone; the opposition was reduced to 12 for 2.

The Cavs had their tails up but did not have to wait much longer before Jimbo Thomas added another wicket to his tally for this season thanks to a good catch on the midwicket boundary from Julian Griffiths.

Neath then set about rebuilding their innings. Despite the runs drying up and boundaries being well protected the Neath middle order continued to frustrate the Cavs as runs slowly added up.

After a period of play that would have surely seen the scorers catching 40 winks, Jimbo Thomas took his second wicket of the game while Gareth Hughes and Adrian Asthon (back from a recent ankle injury) battled away at the other end but did not enjoy any success.

In a move that rolled back the years, the Cavs turned to James Snelson and Michael Wood who had once formed a formidable opening partnership with the ball.

Snelson struck first with an edge that was caught behind and the Cavs were immediately lifted. With chairman Neal Pritchard reminding the team to leave nothing on the pitch and take all 10 wickets, concentration was high and confidence grew.

Wood and Snelson reduced the run rate and had the Neath batsman utterly perplexed with good old fashioned swing bowling that was both clever and precise.

Wood earned his bragging rights by taking a triple wicket maiden in his second over which included a hat-trick ball. Neath ended their innings with 197 all out, a score that saw Wood and Snelson lead their teammates off the field proving you only need six overs to take six wickets.

After enjoying a well deserved tea, (thanks to the Cheal family), the Cavs set about chasing the total down. Openers James Snelson and Mark Coldwell got the Cavs off to a good start before Coldwell succumbed and the Cavs were 63 – 1.

It was to be Snelson (43) and Griffiths (41) who would make the biggest contributions of the innings and they helped to move the Cavs on with less than 100 runs to chase before they both found themselves back in the pavilion.

The middle order failed to see the first team home with Thomas, Withers and Asthon failing to make significant scores. It fell upon Sam Pickford's broad shoulders to carry the Cavs home. Pickford (26no) set about his innings in a calm fashion and occasionally providing some of Neath's more enthusiastic youngsters plenty of time to consider what they did wrong as they fetched the ball.

The Cavs have closed the gap between themselves and Great Western as well as first place Felinfoel who both have had their games at Windmill Lane cancelled to the some bad weather earlier in the season.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors: Simons Plaice, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, Chiropodist Roz Couzens, Accesstraining.co.uk, Red Dragon Computers, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Jaipur Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine and Nathaniel for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.

DMC

Beavers hold triathlon event

FOLLOWING the success of last year's triathlon, Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club will be holding their second mini fun triathlon on Sunday, September 14, starting from Barry Leisure Centre at 9.30am; this year's event is open to individual competitors and teams.

The event consists of a 40 length swim, 10km bike ride and a 5km run. The entry fee is £10 for individuals and £15 for groups.

The event will raise money for the swimming club to help towards the cost of the pool hire and fund buses to take the swimmers to other galas across south Wales. The club is run by volunteers.

Application forms for the triathlon can be obtained from Sarah Davies; telephone 01446 421632 or email sarahdavies2110@gmail.com.

SD

Bad weekend for Vale cricket teams

VALE 1sts suffered a three wicket defeat at Dinas Powys. Vale skipper Nick Hogben continued his winning run of winning the toss and chose to bat first.

Despite losing an early wicket Vale made a reasonable start to the innings progressing to 66 before Ben Horton was caught for a well played 40.

Matthew Williams and Billy Yates added 64 for the next wicket but this partnership was ended when Williams fell for 21. Yates was batting well although not chance free, and had moved into the 80s and looked on course for his first century when he offered up a catch and fell for 89, his third half century of the summer.

The score was 193-6 with overs remaining and Vale were still on course for a score around 250 but unfortunately their innings fell away badly despite an entertaining innings of 23 from Chris Bradshaw.

Vale didn't help themselves as some erratic running from the skipper saw two team mates run out and Vale failed to bat out their overs, being bowled out in the 46th over. The 217 posted looked to be probably short by about 30 runs given how quick the outfield was.

We needed early wickets and unfortunately we didn't get them. A couple of catches when down and gave both openers a life and Dinas Powys progressed to 93 before Matthew Williams got the well deserved wicket of N Piddock, who had made 56, thanks to an excellent catch by Hogben.

It was another 40 runs before Ollie Pike took a fine catch at long off to give Tom Taylor the first of his two wickets.

Vale then had a good spell which brought them back into the game. Pike produced an aggressive bouncer for Horton to take the catch behind, Pike then holding a catch at long on off Yates and finally Mark Francis held on to a skier off Taylor leaving the home side 155-5 with the game in the balance.

Two further wickets fell as Taylor took a catch off Pike and Horton held a great catch standing up to Darren Upham.

However, Vale finally succumbed in the 48th over as A Rizvi came in and blasted a quick fire 20 as Dinas Powys secured a maximum points victory with Vale taking seven points.

In the end Vale were a few runs short and some important catches dropped cost the side dear. However, with Dinas at one point on 136-1, Vale made them work hard for the victory which was credit to the fighting spirit of the side.

Vale's bowling figures were O Pike 10-1-36-2, N Hogben 9-1-36-0, D Upham 5.2-0-48-1, M Williams 10-3-36-1, T Taylor 10-1-37-2 and B Yates 3-0-20-1.

A poor batting performance saw Vale seconds lose badly to Brecon on Saturday.

Winning a good toss, Brecon elected to bat and assembled a slightly below-par 234-8 on a superb wicket and lightning fast outfield. Given these circumstances, the bowling and – for the most part – fielding effort was to be praised.

Mike Barnett bowled with hostility to claim three wickets, while the mid-innings spells from Steve and Matt Harper and Harrish Kannan gave skipper Carl Brooks some much needed control.

Gerwyn Teague chipped in with two important wickets, and Luke John's 'death' bowling kept the visitors below the 250 that had earlier looked likely.

But the batting was a shambles. Brooks and Kannan were both injured in the field so had to bat at the end of the order, and this probably contributed to a lack of focus from the talented but inexperienced line-up.

Only Steve Harper showed any semblance of application and his 24, supplemented by Kannan's 21 slog at the end, meant the Vale posted a meagre 118 all out. **MF**

Seaside fun!

ON Tuesday, Porthcawl Ladies travelled to Llantwit Major to play a CCS match; the game was played in glorious sunshine.

The teams were: L.Crouch, M.Horgan, P.Pike and V.Baelz 22-12; M.Lewis, P.Brown, C.Willmot and P.Cook 14-18; K.Johnes, M.Andrews, M.Morgan and J.Molloy 16-9.

Pat Brown, who was playing in her first club game, had a very enjoyable game and is looking forward to her next one.

On Thursday it was our turn to travel to Barry Athletic, another seaside town, at Barry Island. Unfortunately the results were not as good as the weather.

Marian's team although staying close to their opposite numbers found it difficult to adjust to the fast green - L.Crouch, M.Horgan, V.Baelz and M.Lewis 10-16. Carol's team, while having the advantage of playing against three, thrived on the fast green - K.Johnes, P.Pike, J.Molloy and C.Willmot 19-5&1/4.

Etta's team were keeping up with their team until the 11th end when they dropped a six and only managed to score one more point - E.Hardie, D.Hurley, M.Davies and E.Gray; we were compensated by being served a lovely tea!

Ladies do not forget it is the H and J Semmens club competition on Tuesday. **CW**

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for June 17:

First, Peter Millar and Mike Close, 67.86 per cent; second, Ann and Sean Macdougall, 64.88 per cent; third, Irene Thomas and Jane Brook, 61.46 per cent.

Congratulations to Mark Roderick who was in the winning east Wales team that participated in the open event for the Perry Shield and congratulations to Irene Thomas, who was in the winning west Wales team that won the Spickett Bowl in the ladies event.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. **Dave Reed**

GOLFERS' JOY!

A third consecutive victory has taken St Andrews Major Golf Club into the quarter final of the South Wales Senior Classic.

The six-man team defeated Woodlake Park 3-0 at home last Thursday. The competition, open to golfers aged 55 and over, attracted 64 teams from across south Wales. Each tie consists of three matches played in a pairs format.

The St Andrews team comprised: Mike Cockfield (c), Brian Haines, Derek Sandrey, Harry Emery, Steve Grainger and Bob Crump.

"The lads did us proud," said St Andrews club president, Roger Parsons.

The club's senior championship on June 14/15 – in which 27 players competed – was won by Alan Bannister, with Brian Close and Mike Cockfield second and third.

The nett score placings, which takes handicaps into account, saw Karen Bryan in first place, followed by Nigel Cockram and Derek Sandrey. **DH**

Golf lessons will help cancer charity

PICTURED (left to right) are Gaynor Openshaw-Smith (sales and marketing manager), Heather Howard (restaurant assistant), Anna Chmielowiec (restaurant assistant), Gareth Bennett (PGA professional), Esther Storey (sales and events co-ordinator), Sophie Richards (bar supervisor) and Kat Ambroziak (bars manager).

A GROUP of lady members of staff from Cottrell Park Golf Resort are having golf lessons with golf professional Gareth Bennett in a bid to take up the game and, at the same time, raise money for Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch.

The first session started with putting practice; set-up, aim, distance and speed. The next lesson will be chipping around the green.

The club is going to sell Cottrell Park logo pink t-shirts with 'Golf for Life' branding for £20 each, where 50 per cent goes straight to charity. Also, the lesson percentage normally taken by Cottrell Park for Gareth's use of the club's facilities is also being donated.

For further details of how to get involved, including the purchase of the t-shirts, contact Gaynor or Esther on 01446 781781.

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Welsh anguish has silver lining as the display puts RWC goal back on track

The beginning of the end to Welsh hopes as Charteris gets his marching orders, soon to be joined in the sin bin by Biggar – reducing the team to 13 men – which cost 14 points and let the struggling Springboks back into the game.

PHOTOGRAPHS by Huw Evans Agency

ABOVE, left and right: Jamie Roberts and Alex Cuthbert score two of the tries that raised Welsh hopes – only to be dashed by the referee's late penalty try award (centre).

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

"OH NO, NOT AGAIN!"

WELSH frustration could be felt all the way from Nelspruit to Nantymoel, as a truly monumental effort to claim an elusive South African scalp, was agonisingly denied by a penalty try awarded in the dying minutes of Saturday's pulsating second test.

And what a superb effort it was – as Warren Gatland's team, showing only two changes from the limp side ruthlessly crushed in the 38-16 first test defeat at Durban just the week before, were suddenly transformed into a potent attacking force – and this time the boot was on the other foot, with the vaunted 'Boks desperately scrambling to stay on terms straight from the kick-off.

Head coach Gatland had been under pressure from a passionate nation of three million rugby selectors and a strident media calling for wholesale Welsh changes after the first test horror show, but stood staunchly by his tried and tested squad – with only veteran Adam Jones making way for young Samson Lee at tight head and flanker Josh Turnbull coming in to add more breakdown muscle on the problem open-side.

The players rewarded the Kiwi's faith in full with a remarkable, all-round team performance that must surely rank as one of their most commanding and convincing of recent years – and certainly didn't deserve the heartbreak of a 31-30 defeat – after having led all the way for all but four minutes to full time.

Little wonder that a visibly disappointed Gatland confessed afterwards that it was probably the toughest defeat of the whole of his coaching career, adding – *"We are absolutely gutted"*.

He refused to blame referee Steve Walsh (no stranger to controversy) for awarding the last ditch penalty try, after ruling that Wales fullback Liam Williams had prevented a certain touchdown in the corner with an illegal shoulder charge tackle on Springbok wing Cornal Hendricks.

The resulting straightforward conversion bang in front of the posts clinched an unlikely one-point victory for the mightily-relieved South Africans – their 26th in 28 matches between the two. Wales have only won once with one match drawn, both at home.

"*It was a big improvement on the first test. We had worked very hard and I am proud of the turnaround... But we just weren't quite good enough,*" Gatland summed up candidly.

Mind you, that certainly did not seem to be the case for the bulk of the 80 minutes, for in complete contrast to the Durban no-show, this time it was a far more purposeful and dynamic Wales who started off with real intent.

A revitalised Mike Phillips shrugged off pre-match media speculation that his place was under serious threat, to lead the way with trademark charges upfield from the base of the scrum, and wing Alex Cuthbert also showed a heartening appetite to get involved as the Welsh attack suddenly remembered how good it is and slipped smoothly into gear.

The intense pressure told, forcing the startled Springboks into uncharacteristic errors. Outside half Dan Biggar, who had failed with an earlier penalty attempt, then made no mistake to put Wales 3-0 ahead.

His opposite number, Morne Steyn, failed to level the score when Wales were penalised but the tourists then had a purple handling patch with the predatory Cuthbert again highly prominent – first giving a try-scoring pass to Jamie Roberts and then rounding off a flowing team movement with a try of his own. Both were converted by Biggar to give Wales a 17-0 lead with just 22 minutes gone.

If the stunned Springboks had expected the second test to follow a similar pattern to the first hopelessly one-sided affair, they now realised that such complacency was misplaced, and that the rampant men in red were no longer the easy pushover of a week before. It stung them into action...

Suddenly, it was Wales scrambling in frantic defence on their own line and the purple patch was replaced by the red mist of indiscipline, when in the space of four minutes, first Luke Charteris was handed a yellow card, and then Biggar was also sent to the sin bin – and a penalty try awarded – reducing the tourists to 13 men against one of the top three sides in the world, and threatening a mortal blow to Welsh hopes.

As it was, just as in the previous week, when Jamie Roberts spent 10 minutes in the sin bin, it proved costly – for the hitherto back-pedalling South Africans hit back with a second converted touchdown for a haul of 14 points – exactly as was the case in Durban – at a stroke reducing the Welsh lead to three points and making the halftime score 14-17.

It could, of course, have been much worse and with Wales thankfully restored to their full complement, they resumed their all-out offensive after the interval – and were rewarded when hooker Ken Owens forced his way over near the posts for Biggar to add the easy conversion.

Steyn promptly hit back with a penalty, but when the increasingly desperate South Africans were again penalised, Biggar slotted over to further widen the score-line to 17-27.

When inspirational skipper Alun Wyn Jones was taken out in the air (*which surely on consistency grounds alone should have brought a red card, for it was potentially a far more serious incident than Welsh skipper Sam Warburton's red card dismissal in the Rugby World Cup*), Wales seemed to be heading for that historic win at long last – with the scoreboard now amazingly reading 17-30.

Then with just eight minutes remaining to the final whistle, lurking danger man Willie le Roux, who had tormented Wales in the first test at Durban, struck again, gliding sinuously through for a try converted by Steyn, to narrow the margin to six points at 24-30.

Now with time fast running out, both sides knew that just one converted Springbok try would yet decide the outcome of a match that for so long had not seemed in doubt.

And so it proved, with the dramatic scenes at the end, as the referee ignored Alun Wyn's protests and ran to the posts to award the second penalty try that finally sank their hopes. There was a strong sense of *deja vu,* as not for the first time Wales had seen a big southern hemisphere scalp slip tantalisingly through their fingers, just when they thought it was within their grasp.

The bitterly disappointed Welsh camp could be forgiven for giving way to despair, knowing that if the situation had been reversed, there was no way a southern hemisphere side would have failed to close out a match after building a 30-17 lead, with the clock counting down to the final minutes.

It has been an all too familiar story in recent years, and Gatland's concern is understandable, with the Rugby World Cup starting to loom on the distant horizon.

However, Nelsprit has confirmed his belief that, despite all the turbulence and distractions on and off the field that have plagued Welsh rugby recently, he still has a highly-competitive squad fully capable of mounting a realistic challenge in 2015.